

General Guidance for American Citizens Living in Tunisia



Consular Section
US Embassy Tunis

Introduction

Welcome to Tunisia!

We're happy to have you here in our consular district, and look forward to serving you throughout your stay.

This guide is by no means comprehensive. As most American citizens in Tunisia live in Tunis and its outlying suburbs, the focus of this book is there. We encourage Americans in Tunisia to visit the State Department website (<http://www.travel.state.gov>) and other outside resources to get further details on living abroad as an American citizen. You may also register with the Embassy on the website and we encourage all Americans living abroad to do so! Please note that none of the businesses or service providers in this guide are being endorsed by the Embassy or the US Government. We provide their names as a resource and assume no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by these entities .

If the Consular Section can be of help to you during your time here in Tunisia please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

The Consular Section
US Embassy Tunis



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American Citizen Services

Location: Consular Section, United States Embassy, Berges du Lac, Tunisia 1053

Website: <http://tunisia.usembassy.gov>

Telephone: (216) 71 107 000 (switchboard)

E-mail to: consulartunis@state.gov

For **EMERGENCIES** after hours, during weekends and holidays, please call the embassy switchboard at telephone number **(216) 71 107 212**.



SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE OFFICE OF AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

- Issuance and renewal of U.S. passports;
- U.S. Reports of Birth for children born in Tunisia to U.S. citizens, by appointment only; issuance of first passports
- Notary services (a) for documents to be used in the U.S. or (b) for documents to be used by U.S. citizens resident in Tunisia;
- Assistance to U.S. citizens who are in emergency situations, ill, incarcerated or who have relatives that die in Tunisia;
- Lists of English-speaking translators, doctors, dentists & attorneys;
- Information on Department of State Travel Warnings and country specific travel information;
- Information on absentee voting and selective service registration;
- Claims for veterans and social security benefits;
- Transfer of Social Security and other U.S. Government benefits to beneficiaries residing abroad;
- Information on procedures required to obtain Tunisian public documents.
- Consular Officers can provide some information on other matters that affect Americans overseas or they may be able to refer Americans to the appropriate source of assistance.

This guide provides much of the information you may require during your stay in Tunisia. We welcome your input on how it may be improved. Please send input and suggestions⁵ to consulartunis@state.gov .

Registration with the Embassy

In order to register with the U.S. Embassy in Tunisia please refer to the following website page:

<https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs>

The cornerstone of our efforts to keep the American traveling public aware of problems threatening their safety and security is our Consular Information Program. Travel registration is a free service provided by the U.S. Government to U.S. citizens who are traveling to, or living in, a foreign country. Registration allows you to record information about your upcoming trip abroad that the Department of State can use to assist you in case of an emergency. Americans residing abroad can also get routine information from the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. You may register online at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs>.

What is Travel Registration?

Travel registration is a free service provided by the U.S. Government to U.S. citizens who are traveling to, or living in, a foreign country. Registration allows you to record information about your upcoming trip abroad that the Department of State can use to assist you in case of an emergency. Americans residing abroad can also get routine information from the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Why should I register?

Millions of Americans travel abroad every year and encounter no difficulties. However, U.S. embassies and consulates assist nearly 200,000 Americans each year who are victims of crime, accident, or illness, or whose family and friends need to contact them in an emergency. When an emergency happens, or if natural disaster, terrorism, or civil unrest strikes during your foreign travel, the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate can be your source of assistance and information. By registering your trip, you help the embassy or consulate locate you when you might need them the most. Registration is voluntary and costs nothing, but it should be a big part of your travel planning and security.

How can the embassy or consulate assist me while I am abroad?

U.S. consular officers assist Americans who encounter serious legal, medical, or financial difficulties. Although consular officers cannot act as your legal counsel or representative, they can provide the names of local attorneys and doctors, provide loans to destitute Americans, and provide information about dangerous conditions affecting your overseas travel or residence. Consular officers also perform nonemergency services, helping Americans with absentee voting, selective service registration, receiving federal benefits, and filing U.S. tax forms. Consular officers can notarize documents, issue passports, and register American children born abroad. Most embassies and consulates have web sites with more information. Registration through this website is NOT considered proof of U.S. citizenship. If you apply for any American citizen services from the embassy or consulate while abroad, you will be asked by the consular staff to provide proof of U.S. citizenship, such as a U.S. passport or American birth certificate.

How will my information be used?

The Department of State and its overseas embassies and consulates request this information only to inform and assist Americans traveling or residing in foreign countries. All personal information you provide is secure and protected by the Privacy Act of 1974.

What if I am already living abroad?

Register as a Long-Term Traveler. You then have the opportunity to provide information about your foreign residence, and you can opt to receive information from the nearest embassy or consulate. If you create a password, you can update your personal information on this website at any time. If you have a residence or contact address in the U.S., use that address as your Personal Information address, and your foreign residence as your Long-Term Trip address. If you do not have a U.S. residence or contact address, use your foreign residence as both your Personal Information address and your Long-Term Trip address.

I just want information about the country I'm visiting.

You don't have to register to get travel information from the Department of State. A current listing of all Travel Warnings, Public Announcements, and Consular Information Sheets can be found at <http://travel.state.gov>. If you would like to sign up to get updated information sent to you by email for any country, use the "Travel Info" link at the top of this page: <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/>. For more details about Travel Registration, use the "Help" link at the top of this page. Find more information at your local U.S. Embassy or Consulate website. If you encounter any difficulties or have any questions about our travel registration website, please send an E-mail to consulartunis@state.gov.

For specific information on Tunisia, please refer to the Consular Information Sheet at:

http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1045.html

Registration and Privacy

The Department of State is committed to ensuring that any personal information received by our overseas embassies and consulates pursuant to the registration process, whether in person or otherwise, is safeguarded against unauthorized disclosure. The data that you provide the Department of State is subject to the provisions of the Privacy Act (5 USC 552a). This means that the Department of State will not disclose the information you provide us in your registration application to any third parties unless you have first given us written authorization to do so, or unless the disclosure is otherwise permitted by the Privacy Act.

Authority: 22 U.S.C 2715, and 22 U.S.C 4802 (b).

Purpose: To notify U.S. citizens in the event of a disaster, emergency or other crisis, and for evacuation coordination.

The information solicited on this form may be made available as a routine use to appropriate agencies whether federal, state, local, or foreign, to assist the Department in the evacuation or provision of emergency service to U.S. citizens, or for law enforcement and administration purposes or pursuant to court order. The information is also made available to private U.S. citizens, known as wardens, designated by U.S. embassies to assist in communicating with the American community in an emergency. For a complete statement of the routine uses to which this information may be put, see the Prefatory Statement of Routine Uses and the listing of routine uses set forth in the systems description for Overseas Citizens Services Records (State-05), found at <http://foia.state.gov/issuances/priviss.asp>. Lastly, while this internet site uses secure encryption to safeguard your privacy and therefore any unauthorized interception by third parties of the information you send via the internet is unlikely, please keep in mind that the Department of State is not responsible for any such interception



Applying for Passports

All passport applicants must appear in person at US Embassy Tunis. Please provide the following documents:

For renewals of passports for applicants that meet the following requirements:

- If you are in possession of a full-validity (10-year) passport issued within the past 15 years and issued when you were at least 16 years old that is not mutilated in any way.

Please bring the following documents:

- Application form DS-82. Please type or print legibly in **black ink** when completing all sections of this application, and print out and submit only one-sided pages of the application. You may download this form from http://www.travel.state.gov/passport/forms/ds82/ds82_843.html . You may also obtain this form from the Consular Section of the Embassy at the time of application.
- Your most recent passport
- Two (2) identical, recent color photographs taken full face, with a white background, head size measuring 1 to 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ inch; entire photo size 5 cm by 5 cm (2 in x 2 in).

For first time passports or for applicants that meet the following requirements:

- You are applying for a U.S. passport for the first time.
- Your previous passport was lost, stolen, or mutilated. (Please report this to us immediately.)
- Your previous U.S. passport was issued more than 15 years ago.
- Your previous passport was issued when you were under 16 or you hold a 5-year validity passport. (Please refer to the following pages with section on Passports for Minors under the Age of 16.)
- Your name has changed since your passport was issued and you do not have a legal document formally changing your name.

Please bring the following documents:

- Application form DS-11. Please type or print legibly in **black ink** when completing all sections of this application, and print out and submit only one-sided pages of the application. You may download this form from http://travel.state.gov/passport/forms/ds11/ds11_842.html . You may also obtain this form from the Consular Section of the Embassy at the time of application. Please do not sign this form until you are in the presence of a Consular Officer.
- Your most recent passport
- Two (2) identical, recent color photographs taken full face, with a white background, head size measuring 1 to 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ inch; entire photo size 5 cm by 5 cm (2 in x 2 in).
- First time passport applicants must bring proof of citizenship. This generally means a U.S. passport, an original birth certificate or a certified birth certificate issued by the city, county or state (see <http://www.vitalchek.com>) a ConsularReport of Birth Abroad, or a Naturalization Certificate) and proof of identity (generally a passport or current, valid driver's license. Note: Your Social Security card does not prove your citizenship, or your identity).

Fees (Effective February 1, 2008)

Fees may be paid in Tunisian dinar or US dollars but must be paid in cash.

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| • Passports for minors under the age of 16 | \$85 or TD |
| • If old passport is full validity, ten year passport issued within 15 years and not mutilated in any way | \$75 or TD |
| • All other passport applicants | \$100 or TD |



Passports for Minors under the Age of 16

There are special requirements for minors under age 16 in order to renew a passport. Please refer to <http://tunisia.usembassy.gov/> for complete instructions since specific documentation is necessary.

- In order to renew a child's passport, **both parents and the minor child must appear in person** at the Consular Section of the Embassy. If one parent cannot appear, a **notarized** "Statement of Consent: Issuance of a Passport to a Minor Under Age 16" available at http://travel.state.gov/passport/forms/ds3053/ds3053_846.html , authorizing passport issuance for the child must be presented with the non-appearing parents signed, photo identification.
- Two (2) identical, recent color photographs taken full face, with a white background, head size measuring 1 to 1½ inch; entire photo size 5 cm by 5 cm (2 in x 2 in).
- **The child's original birth certificate, or a certified birth certificate issued by the city, county or state** (see <http://www.vitalchek.com>) or a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, or Naturalization Certificate) **and both parents' signed photo identification such as a passport.**

Once we have received the complete passport application, it takes approximately two weeks for you to receive your new passport.

Passport Fees for Minors: Eighty-five dollars (\$85.00) or the Tunisian dinar equivalent in cash. Personal checks are not accepted.

For more information on renewing passports for minors, please refer to the following Department of State website pages: http://travel.state.gov/passport/ppi/news/news_857.html and http://travel.state.gov/passport/aet/minors/minors_834.html



Lost, Stolen or Mutilated Passports

In order to obtain a replacement passport for imminent departure, **all applicants (including children) must appear in person** at the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy with certain mandatory documents.

For minor children, please follow instructions on the previous page regarding two-parent consent and signatures.

The Office of American Services can replace lost, stolen or mutilated passports upon verification of your identity, and your citizenship, with an emergency limited-validity passport valid for immediate travel.

You may download the application forms DS-11 and DS-0064 from the following website pages http://travel.state.gov/passport/forms/ds11/ds11_842.html and <http://travel.state.gov/pdf/DS-0064.pdf> ; or you may obtain the forms at the Consulate at the time of application. Please do not sign these forms until asked to do so in the presence of a Consul at the passport office of the Consular Section of the Embassy. A police report is also requested at the time of application.

Please submit two (2) identical, recent color photographs taken full face, with a white background, head size measuring 1 to 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ inch; entire photo size 5 cm by 5 cm (2 in x 2 in).

If you have an imminent departure, please bring proof of travel and a limited validity passport will be issued as soon as possible. It can usually be done within 24 hours.

The fee for a limited validity replacement passport (also called an emergency passport) is \$97 or the equivalent in Tunisian dinar, to be paid in cash at the time of application. You will be given a letter along with your passport which gives instructions on how to turn in your limited validity passport for a full validity, ten year regular passport upon your return to the United States.

Please see the following website page for further information on lost and stolen passports:
<http://tunisia.usembassy.gov>



Name Changes and Additional Visa Pages in Passports

If you wish your new name to appear on the last page of your current passport

(there is no fee for this service):

- Please make sure that your passport is in good condition before having it amended.
- Submit the completed and signed application form DS-5504. You may download the form from: http://travel.state.gov/passport/forms/ds5504/ds5504_2663.html
- Submit **documentary evidence such a court order, marriage or divorce certificate, or other satisfactory evidence to support a change of name.** Only **originals** or **certified copies** of these documents will be accepted along with your current passport at the time of application.

If you wish your new name to appear on the photo identification page of the passport:

- You will need to complete a new passport application. The passport renewal fee will be charged for this service.
- Submit **documentary evidence such a court order, marriage or divorce certificate, or other satisfactory evidence to support a change of name.** Only **originals** or **certified copies** of these documents will be accepted along with your current passport at the time of application.

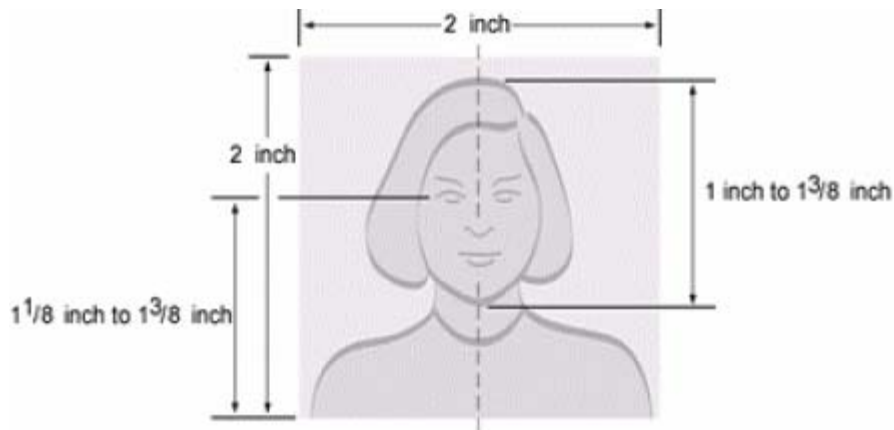


For additional visa pages:

- Please make sure that your passport is in good condition before having pages added to it.
- The application form, DS-4085, must be completed and signed. You may download the DS-4085 from <http://pptform.state.gov>.
- Please bring your passport and application to the Consular Section of the Embassy. There is no fee for this service.



Photo Requirements for US Passports



Please assure that the following conditions are met for your U.S. passport photos:

- Two (2) identical, unsigned, color or black and white photographs, taken within the past six months.
- Photograph **background** must be **white** or off-white.
- Square images, exactly 2 x 2 inches (5 x 5 centimeters).
- The customer's head, measured from the bottom of the chin to the top of the hair, should be between 1 inch and 1-3/8 inches (2.5 – 3.5 centimeters).
- The head should be centered in the photo. The head of the person being photographed should not be tilted up, down or to the side. It should cover about 50% of the area of the photo.

Where to Get Photos

The United States Embassy assumes no responsibility for the professional ability or integrity of the persons or

studios whose names appear in the list given below. The names are listed alphabetically and the order in which they appear has no other significance.

Choof Studio: 9 bis Avenue d'Afrique, Menzah 5 Tunis, 1004 Tel: 71-755-122

Kodak Studio: Centre Commercial Carrefour, Route de La Marsa

Photo Kamoun: 109 Avenue de la Liberté, Belvedere, Tunis 1002 Tel: 71-788-880

Ulysse Photo: Place 07 Novembre, La Marsa Tel: 71-743-762

Questions about Citizenship and Passports

Q. I was born in the United States while my parents were there temporarily for studies. Do I have a claim to American citizenship? .

Yes, almost anybody born in the United States is an American citizen regardless of the nationality or status of the parents. One major exception includes children of foreign diplomats who have full diplomatic immunity. Anyone else can apply for an American passport by presenting an original birth certificate showing birth in the United States and adequate identity documents.

Q. I am an American citizen and I recently had a child born in Tunisia. Is she American?

Probably. Whether an American citizen can transmit citizenship to a child born overseas depends on whether both parents are American, whether the child was born in wedlock, and when the child was born. The most common case is a child born in wedlock to one American parent and one non-American parent. The American parent must have been physically present in the United States for five years prior to the birth of the child. In addition, two of those five years must be after the parent reached the age of fourteen. For children born before November 14, 1986, the parent must have spent ten years in the United States with five years after the age of fourteen. The five years is cumulative, so a few months here and a few years there can be used to add up to the five years. When both parents are American, they need only show that one of them has ever resided in the United States. An American mother of a child born out wedlock needs to show that she spent one continuous year in the United States prior to the birth of her child. An American father of a child born out of wedlock must have the five years and must have recognized the child and agreed to support the child financially.

Q. My daughter has lived all her life in Tunisia and cannot give American citizenship to her children. Is there any way they can become American through their grandparents?

Yes. When American citizens cannot transmit citizenship to their children born overseas because they do not have the required physical presence time in the United States, they have two options: They can apply for the expeditious naturalization of their children, if an American citizen grandparent has enough physical presence time in the United States. This procedure must be done through the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service. The process takes longer (up to 3 years) and the child must go to the United States to be naturalized, but the end result is that the child receives a Certificate of U.S. Citizenship and is an American citizen. The process must be completed before the child is eighteen. The U.S. citizen parent may file for an immigrant visa for the child. Under the Child Citizenship Act, once the child enters the U.S. on an immigrant visa, the child automatically becomes a U.S. citizen. The child must be under 18 and in the legal and physical custody of the U.S. citizen parent at the time of entry. Immigrant visas may be obtained through the Embassy in Tunis. The immigrant visa process usually takes no more than a few months.

Q. We are Americans living in Tunisia. We just adopted an Ethiopian girl and she is living with us here. How do we get her an American passport?

The same process mentioned above can be used for children adopted overseas by American citizens. While adoption by a U.S. citizen parent does not automatically confer citizenship, it does qualify a child for expeditious naturalization or citizenship upon entry to the U.S. with an immigrant visa.

Q. My son has both Tunisian and American citizenship. At what age must he choose which citizenship he wants to keep?

American citizenship is for life. The laws covering the retention of citizenship have been greatly liberalized. No child has to do anything at any age to retain, choose, affirm, or confirm American citizenship. In the 1980's, the Supreme Court ruled that citizenship is a Constitutional right that cannot be taken away from a citizen who does not intend to relinquish it. Therefore, such actions as naturalization or voting in a foreign election do not automatically jeopardize American citizenship.

Q. If I acquire Tunisian citizenship, can I still be an American?

Yes. In the 1980's, the Supreme Court ruled that citizenship is a constitutional right that cannot be taken away from a citizen who does not intend to relinquish it. Therefore, such actions as naturalization in a foreign country, employment with a foreign government, voting in a foreign election, do not automatically jeopardize American citizenship.

Q. If we don't plan to travel back to the United States any time soon, why should we renew our passports now?

1. The passport is proof of American citizenship. Every American abroad should have valid proof of her or his citizenship at all times.
2. Life is unpredictable. You will never know when you may need to travel suddenly to the United States. The last thing you need to do in an emergency is worry about getting downtown to get your or your child's passport renewed. It is much better to do it when it is convenient for you.
3. A passport is required for countless Tunisian administrative purposes and you do not want to get caught with an expired passport when your *carte de séjour* comes up for renewal.

Q. I travel frequently and my passport is always at some embassy to obtain a visa. Can I get a second passport?

Generally, citizens are allowed to carry only one valid passport at a time. In some cases, the issuance of a second passport is possible: frequent travel and delays due to visa applications; the presence of a stamp from one country that causes problems in another country. We will ask for justification from an employer or proof of compelling reasons for personal travel.

Q. I let my passport expire. What can I do now?

You should renew it as soon as possible. Please see the sections in this guide on How to Apply for a Passport Renewal. We suggest that you always check your passport's expiration date well before you plan to travel in order to prevent delaying your travel plans.



Consular Reports of Birth Abroad

A Consular Report of Birth Abroad may be issued for any U.S. citizen child under the age of 18 who was born abroad and who acquired U.S. citizenship at birth. To register an overseas birth and to obtain a first passport, please schedule an appointment at <http://tunisia.usembassy.gov> . In addition to the documentation listed below, the child must be present at the time of registration.

U.S. citizens with children who were born outside the United States must register them at the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate in order to document them as U.S. citizens. American citizens can register the birth of their children born abroad with the Office of American Services as well as obtain a first passport and social security number for newborn children. In the registration process, a Consul determines the eligibility of U.S. citizen parents to “transmit” citizenship to the child.

REGISTRATION OF U.S. CITIZENS BORN ABROAD

U.S. citizens with children who were born outside the United States must register them at the nearest U.S. embassy or Consulate in order to document them as U.S. citizens. American citizens can register the birth of their children born abroad with the Office of American Services as well as obtain a first passport and social security number for newborn children. In the registration process, a Consul determines the eligibility of U.S. citizen parents to “transmit” citizenship to the child.

Upon registration, the child will be issued a **CONSULAR REPORT OF BIRTH ABROAD OF A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (FORM FS-240)**. This document is a basic citizenship document. In the United States, it may be easier to present this document as a birth certificate in place of a foreign birth certificate. The Consular Report of Birth Abroad is usually ready in about twenty four hours. The child's passport application will be sent to the National Passport Center and the passport will be ready within two weeks.

U.S. citizen parents should register their children as soon as possible, but it is imperative that registrations be processed before the children reach eighteen years of age. A Consular Report of Birth Abroad cannot be prepared if the child is 18 years old or more at the time the birth is reported. Persons born abroad who are more than 18 years of age and who believe they have a claim to U.S. citizenship, but who have never been documented as a U.S. citizen, should apply to the nearest American Embassy or Consulate for information and assistance in investigating their claim to U.S. nationality. Only the child's U.S. parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may apply for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad on a child's behalf. Both parents must sign the application for the child's first passport



Consular Report of Birth Abroad Checklist

Please remember that the child must be present at the appointment.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS CHECKLIST:

The American parent(s) should submit the following documents to the Consular Section, either in the original form or a certified copy:

- The child's birth certificate issued by the local authorities at the place of birth. For births in Tunisia, request the *extrait de l'acte de naissance* from the town hall.
- Evidence of the U.S. citizenship of the child's parent(s) (e.g., passport or naturalization certificate).
- The marriage certificate of the child's parents if they are married. If the marriage occurred in Tunisia you may use the Tunisian marriage certificate.
- If either of the child's parents has been married before, evidence of the termination of that marriage, such as a divorce decree or death certificate.
- A statement by the U.S. citizen parent(s) listing the precise periods of actual physical presence in the United States.
- Evidence of physical presence in the U.S. (School records, passport stamps, doctor or immunization records are acceptable; Social Security and tax records generally are not admissible.)
- Completed Consular Report of Birth Abroad application worksheet (DS-2029).
- Consular Reports of Birth Abroad for your other children, if applicable.
- The fee for the report of birth is \$65 or the equivalent in Tunisian dinar. Fees must be paid in cash. Personal checks are not accepted.
- If applying for a U.S. passport for the child, please remember that the fee for a minor under 16 years old is \$82 or the equivalent in Tunisian dinar. If you are applying for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad as well as a first passport, the total fees are \$147.00. For children 16 or 17 years old, the passport fee is \$97.00; total fees are \$162.00. (Or the equivalent in Tunisian dinar.)



Authentication and Notarial Services

Notarial and authentication services are available by appointment Monday through Friday, except on Tunisian and American holidays. To make an appointment, please refer to the Embassy's website: <http://tunisia.usembassy.gov>.

Notarial and authentication services are available to all U.S. passport holders. They are also available to foreign nationals with documents destined for use in the United States. They are executed by Consular Officers and may include documents to be signed before them such as statements made under oath, affidavits and acknowledgments.

To notarize a document, you must come in person to the office with the following documents:

- A valid passport or identity issued by a Government agency; drivers' licenses are acceptable, student ID's are not.
- The document to be notarized
- The fee is \$30, or the Tunisian dinar equivalent per initial signature/seal; each additional signature/seal provided at the same time in connection with the same transaction will cost \$20 or the Tunisian dinar equivalent.
- If your document must also be witnessed, please bring your witnesses with you. Consular officers and staff may **not** be witnesses for notarization purposes.
- Payments must be made in cash in dollars or dinar. We do not accept personal checks.



Voting from Tunisia

We strongly encourage you to register to vote and/or request absentee ballots as early in the year as possible to ensure that you will receive all ballots for which you are eligible. Should questions or problems occur, you would still be able to address them in time to vote in the general elections.

The following is the basic absentee voting process:

- You complete an application form (see below) and send it to local election officials in the U.S.
- The local official approves your request, or contacts you for further information
- The local official sends you an absentee ballot
- You vote the ballot and send it back in time to meet your state's deadline. The official US Government website for overseas absentee voting assistance is the Federal Voting Assistance Program website at www.fvap.gov. It has a wealth of information about absentee voting, including the downloadable absentee ballot application, state-specific instructions for completing the form, links to state and local officials, and a downloadable emergency ballot.

Overseas citizens groups help people to vote. We encourage you to contact Democrats Abroad, Republicans Abroad or other American citizens groups or organizations for assistance in registering to vote and requesting absentee ballots. Links to these groups are at <http://www.fvap.gov/links/ocitlinks.html>.

To register to vote and to request an absentee ballot, download the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) at <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/onlinefpga.html>. You can also obtain this form from overseas American citizens groups or from the U.S. Embassy/Consulate. Fill it out and send it in, following the guidelines for your state. A postage-paid envelope template, valid if you are using the U.S. postal system, is available at <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/returnenvelope.html>.

Each state has different voting procedures. Information about your state's procedures is available at <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/vag/vagchapter3.html>. Information about your state's deadlines to register and vote is available at <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/primarycal.html>. A calendar of election dates is available at <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/primarycal.html>.

To check the status of your voter registration, contact your State or Local Election Office. The Federal Voting Assistance Program website has a listing of all the State Election Office's websites. Simply visit our website at www.fvap.gov and select the State Election Site. Once at this homepage, you'll find a great deal of election information including how to contact your local election office. States sometimes make last-minute changes. There may be late changes to your state's voting calendar, procedures or deadlines. When these occur, the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) will issue a News Release. News releases are available at <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/releases.html>.



Federal Benefits Unit

If you are presently receiving monthly benefits from a federal agency (e.g., Social Security Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Personnel Management or Railroad Retirement Board), you should contact the consular section to advise us of your residence in Tunisia. At that time you should inquire about the procedures for having your payments sent to you in Tunisia.

Please Note: Department of Defense retirees must deal directly with their Defense Finance and Accounting Service Center office in the United States.

Social Security Numbers

Social Security numbers are issued only to United States citizens and legal permanent residents (greencard holders). Typical processing time for applications filed in the United States is approximately 5-10 days.

To secure a Social Security number, an application Form [SS-5](#) must be completed. A passport or green card and a certified copy of a birth record established before age 5 must be presented. Cards should be received from the Social Security Administration in Baltimore within three months of completing the application process. For first time applicants age 12 or over who were born in the United States, the Social Security Administration is required to verify the birth certificate presented in evidence with the Registrar of the State of birth. This delays issuance of cards for six months or more.

U.S. CITIZENS REGISTERING A CHILD as a citizen through the [Consular Report of Birth Abroad](#) may also file for a Social Security number for that child at the same time. Parents are required to provide their own Social Security numbers if they have one and identification such as their passport or green card. If a Social Security card is not received within four months, contact the Federal Benefits Unit.

NON-RESIDENT ALIENS requiring a number for purposes of filing a U.S. tax return must file a [Form W-7](#) Application for IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) with the [Internal Revenue Service](#). Individual States may require a Social Security number for record keeping purposes. Aliens may not have a Social Security number issued for these purposes unless required by State or local law which conforms with Federal law.

Aliens not otherwise entitled to a number and planning on attending school in the United States may be asked for a Social Security number by the school. This is for record keeping purposes and is not authorized by Federal law. The school should be asked to assign its own internal number.

If a Social Security number is required to conduct business with a U.S. bank or financial institution and Federal law does not otherwise allow the issuance of a number, ask the Internal Revenue Service for a Form W-8, Certificate of Foreign Status.



US Taxes

The US Embassy in Tunis keeps a limited number of forms available for pick-up by U.S. citizens who are resident in Tunisia. You will find below some links that are useful for citizens and permanent residents abroad. There is no IRS representative in Tunis. If you need information beyond that provided through the IRS website at www.irs.gov, you can contact the **IRS office in Paris** at:

Tel: 01- 43-12-25-55

Fax: 01-43-12-23-03.

Website: <http://france.usembassy.gov/IRS/IRS.HTM>

E-mail: irs.paris@irs.gov

or the **Philadelphia Service Center** at:

P.O. Box 920, Bensalem, PA 19020.

Tel: 215-516-2000 (not toll-free),

FAX: 215-516-2555

Embassy Tunis tax information and links: http://tunisia.usembassy.gov/tax_information.html



Consular Information Sheet

October 03, 2007

COUNTRY DESCRIPTION: Tunisia is a presidential republic with a developing economy. Tourist facilities are widely available in large urban and major resort areas.

ENTRY/EXIT REQUIREMENTS: A passport is required. For U.S. passport holders, a visa is not necessary for stays of up to four months; however, a residence permit is needed for longer stays. The residence permit can be obtained from the central police station of the district of residence. Americans born in the Middle East or with Arabic names have experienced delays in clearing immigration upon arrival. American citizens of Tunisian origin are expected to enter and exit Tunisia on their Tunisian passports. If a Tunisian-American succeeds in entering using a U.S. passport, he or she will still have to present a Tunisian passport to exit the country.

For further information concerning entry/exit requirements for Tunisia, travelers may contact the Embassy of Tunisia at 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005, tel. 202-862-1850.

Tunisian/American children must always have both parents' permission to exit the country, even if one parent has sole custody.

SAFETY AND SECURITY: There have been no instances in which U.S. citizens or facilities in Tunisia have been subject to terrorist attacks. However, in January 2007, Tunisian security forces announced the disruption of a terrorist group which they believe intended to attack targets including the U.S. Embassy in Tunis. On April 11, 2002, Al-Qaida terrorists used a truck bomb to attack a synagogue on the Tunisian island of Djerba and a number of Western tourists were killed. There have also been unsubstantiated threats to tourist facilities. Security personnel may at times place foreign visitors under surveillance.

Tunisia has open borders with Libya and Algeria. Please refer to the Consular Information Sheets and other international travel safety and security information for those countries. During late 2002 and early 2003, a number of tourists were kidnapped in the Sahara desert areas of southeastern Algeria, several of whom crossed into Algeria from Tunisia.

Up-to-date information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the U.S. and Canada, or for callers outside the U.S. and Canada, a regular toll-line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

The Department of State urges American citizens to take responsibility for their own personal security while traveling overseas.

CRIME: Criminals have targeted tourists and business travelers for theft, pick pocketing, and scams. Care should be taken with wallets and other valuables kept in handbags or backpacks that can be easily opened from behind in crowded streets or marketplaces. Criminals may violently grab at items worn around the neck (purses, necklaces, backpacks) and then run away, sometimes causing injury to their victims. Criminals have been known to rob pedestrians by snatching purses and handbags from their victims while on a motorcycle.

Harassment of unaccompanied females occurs rarely in hotels, but it occurs more frequently elsewhere. Dressing in a conservative manner can diminish potential harassment, especially for young women. It is always wise to travel in groups of two or more people. Women are advised against walking alone in isolated areas. Travelers are advised to avoid buses and commuter rail when possible, and to never enter a taxi if another passenger is present.

Theft from vehicles is also common. Items high in value like luggage, cameras, laptop computers, or briefcases are often stolen from cars. Travelers are advised not to leave valuables in parked cars, and to keep doors locked, windows rolled up and valuables out of sight.

INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME: The loss or theft abroad of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to the local police and the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. If you are the victim of a crime while in Tunisia, in addition to reporting to local police, please contact the U.S. Embassy for assistance, telephone: 71-107-000. The Embassy staff can, for example, assist you to find appropriate medical care, to contact family members or friends and explain how funds could be transferred. Although the investigation and prosecution of the crime is solely the responsibility of local authorities, consular officers can help you to understand the local criminal justice process and to find an attorney if needed.

MEDICAL FACILITIES AND HEALTH INFORMATION: Medical care in Tunisia is adequate, with a number of new, private “polyclinics” available that function as simple hospitals and can provide a variety of procedures. Specialized care or treatment may not be available. Facilities that can handle complex trauma cases are virtually non-existent. While most private clinics have a few physicians who are fluent in English, the medical establishment uses French and all of the ancillary staff in every clinic communicates in Arabic and/or French. Public hospitals are overcrowded, under-equipped and understaffed. In general, nursing care does not conform to U.S. standards.

Immediate ambulance service may not be available outside of urban areas. Even in urban areas, emergency response times can be much longer than in the United States. Doctors and hospitals expect immediate cash payment for health care services although some hospitals may accept credit cards. Over-the-counter medications are available; however, travelers should bring with them a full supply of medications that are needed on a regular basis. The U.S. Embassy in Tunis maintains a list of doctors and medical practitioners (dentists, etc.) who can be contacted for assistance.

Information on vaccinations and other health precautions, such as safe food and water precautions and insect bite protection, may be obtained from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s hotline for international travelers at 1-877-FYI-TRIP (1-877-394-8747) or via the CDC’s Internet site at <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/default.aspx>. For information about outbreaks of infectious diseases abroad, consult the World Health Organization’s (WHO) web site at <http://www.who.int/en>. Further health information for travelers is available at <http://www.who.int/ith>.

MEDICAL INSURANCE: The Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and whether it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation.

TRAFFIC SAFETY AND ROAD CONDITIONS: While in a foreign country, U.S. citizens may encounter road conditions that differ significantly from those in the United States. The information below concerning Tunisia is provided for general reference only, and may not be totally accurate in a particular location or circumstance.

Driving in Tunisia can be dangerous. It is recommended that visitors avoid driving after dark outside of Tunis or the major resort areas. Driving practices are poor. Drivers fail to obey the rules of the road even in the presence of the police. Traffic signs and signals are often ignored, and drivers sometimes drive vehicles on the wrong side of the road. Faster drivers tend to drive on the left while slower drivers stay to the right. Traffic lane markings are widely ignored. Bicycles, mopeds and motorcycles are operated without sufficient lights or reflectors, making them difficult to see darting in and out of traffic. Motorists should also be aware of animals on the roads, particularly in rural areas.

Pedestrians present an additional challenge as they continuously dodge traffic (even on controlled-access highways) and do not pay attention to vehicles. Pedestrians and cyclists should be aware that drivers rarely yield and will not always stop at either crosswalks or stoplights. Defensive driving is a must when driving in Tunisia. Drivers may be stopped for inspection by police officers within cities and on highways at any time, and drivers should comply.

Drivers should also be aware that if they are involved in a motor accident which results in death or serious injury of another person, the police may take them into protective custody until they are absolved of responsibility. This can mean spending a period varying from one day to two months in detention. As with any arrest or detention, Americans taken into custody should immediately request that the police inform the Embassy of their whereabouts.

Travel in the desert areas of southern Tunisia presents additional challenges. Many roads are unimproved, and even well-traveled routes are subject to blowing sands that can create hazards for vehicles. Persons driving off the major paved roads are encouraged to ensure that their vehicles are appropriate for off-road driving conditions, and are equipped with appropriate spares and supplies – including water and food. Groups should generally travel in multiple vehicles, so if a vehicle becomes disabled or immobilized, the group can return in the operable vehicle(s). Desert regions are subject to extreme temperatures, from sub-freezing evenings in the winter to dangerously hot daytime temperatures in the summer. In addition, there are many areas in the southern desert regions with little or no cellular telephone service. The Tunisian National Guard encourages persons traveling into the desert to register their travel beforehand. For details on how and where to register, please visit our desert travel page at http://tunis.usembassy.gov/desert_travel.html.

Emergency services are widely available in the larger towns. They can be less reliable in rural areas. Emergency service numbers are:

Police (Police secours): 197

Fire Department: 198

Ambulance (SAMU): 190

Towing (SOS Remorquage 24/24): 71 801 211, 71 840 840

For specific information about Tunisian drivers licenses, vehicle inspection, road tax, mandatory insurance and towing services, contact the Tunisian National Tourist Organization Office at <http://www.tourismtunisia.com>.

AVIATION SAFETY OVERSIGHT: As there is no direct commercial air service between the United States and Tunisia, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has not assessed Tunisia's Civil Aviation Authority for compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) aviation safety standards. For more information, travelers may visit the FAA's Internet web site at http://www.faa.gov/safety/programs_initiatives/oversight/iasa.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES:

Money – Travelers' checks and credit cards are accepted at some establishments in Tunisia, mainly in urban or tourist areas. Cash machines (ATMs) are available in urban and tourist areas. The Tunisian dinar is not a fully convertible currency. While the export or import of Tunisian banknotes and coins is prohibited, the export of foreign currency declared when entering Tunisia is allowed. Tourists are expected to make foreign exchange transactions at authorized banks and to retain receipts. A tourist may reconvert to foreign currency 30 percent of the amount previously exchanged into dinars, up to a maximum of \$100. Declaring foreign currency when entering Tunisia and obtaining receipts for dinars purchased thereafter will facilitate the conversion of dinars to U.S. dollars when leaving the country. Please keep all receipts of monetary transactions for presentation when departing.

Workweek – Normal working days are Monday to Friday, with government offices open on Saturday mornings. Many stores are closed on Sunday, except in resort areas where most remain open.

Proselytizing – Islam is the state religion of Tunisia and the government does not interfere with the country's religious minorities' public worship. Many religious denominations hold regularly scheduled services. However, it is illegal to proselytize or engage in other activities that the Tunisian authorities could view as encouraging conversion to another faith. In the past, Americans who engaged in such activities were asked to leave the country.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES: While in a foreign country, a U.S. citizen is subject to that country's laws and regulations, which sometimes differ significantly from those in the United States and may not afford the protections available to the individual under U.S. law. Penalties for breaking the law can be more severe than in the United States for similar offenses. Persons violating Tunisian laws, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested or imprisoned. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking in illegal drugs in Tunisia are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines. Homosexuality is illegal in Tunisia, and can be punished by imprisonment. Possession of pornography can also lead to criminal charges. Engaging in sexual conduct with children or using or disseminating child pornography in a foreign country is a crime, prosecutable in the United States.

Background Notes on Tunisia



PROFILE

OFFICIAL NAME:

[Tunisian Republic](#)

Geography

Location: North Africa, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Algeria and Libya.

Area: 163,610 sq. km. (63,378 sq. mi.), slightly smaller than Missouri.

Cities: *Capital*--Tunis; Greater Tunis Area, Sfax, Nabeul, Sousse.

Terrain: Arable land in north and along central coast; south is mostly semiarid or desert.

Climate: Hot, dry summers and mild, rainy winters.

Land Use: *Arable land*, 17.05%; *permanent crops*, 13.08%; *other*, 69.87%.

People

Nationality: *Noun and adjective*--Tunisian(s).

Population (2006): 10,216,000.

Annual growth rate (2005): 1.12%. *Birth rate*--17.1 births/1,000 population. *Death rate*--5.17 deaths/1,000 population.

Ethnic groups: Arab-Berber 98%, European 1%, other 1%.

Religions: Muslim 98%, Christian 1%, Jewish less than 1%.

Languages: Arabic (official), French.

Education: *Years compulsory*--9. *Literacy* (definition--age 15 and over can read and write)--74% (2006 est.).

Health (2006): *Infant mortality rate*--20.3 deaths/1,000 live births. *Life expectancy*--73.5 total, 71.6 years male, 75.5 years female.

Work force (2006): 3.503 million.

Unemployment rate (2006): 13.9%.

PEOPLE AND HISTORY

Modern Tunisians are the descendents of indigenous Berbers and of people from numerous civilizations that have invaded, migrated to, and been assimilated into the population over the millennia. Recorded history in Tunisia begins with the arrival of Phoenicians, who founded Carthage and other North African settlements in the 8th century B.C. Carthage became a major sea power, clashing with Rome for control of the Mediterranean until it was defeated and captured by the Romans in 146 B.C. The Romans ruled and settled in North Africa until the 5th century, when the Roman Empire fell and Tunisia was invaded by European tribes, including the Vandals. The Muslim conquest in the 7th century transformed Tunisia and the make-up of its population, with subsequent waves of migration from around the Arab and Ottoman world, including significant numbers of Spanish Muslims and Jews at the end of the 15th century. Tunisia became a center of Arab culture and learning and was assimilated into the Turkish Ottoman Empire in the 16th century. It was a French protectorate from 1881 until independence in 1956, and retains close political, economic, and cultural ties with France.

Nearly all Tunisians (98% of the population) are Muslim. There has been a Jewish population on the southern island of Djerba for 2000 years, and there remains a small Jewish population in Tunis and other cities, which is mainly descended from those who fled Spain in the late 15th century. A small Christian community is dispersed throughout the country, and includes foreign residents, as well as a few hundred native-born citizens who have converted to Christianity. Small nomadic indigenous minorities have been mostly assimilated into the larger population.

Government

Type: Republic.

Constitution: June 1, 1959; amended July 12, 1988, June 29, 1999, and June 1, 2002.

Independence: March 20, 1956.

Branches: *Executive*--chief of state President Zine El Abidine BEN ALI (since November 7, 1987) head of government, Prime Minister Mohamed GHANNOUCHI (since November 17, 1999) cabinet, Council of Ministers appointed by the president; president elected by popular vote for a 5-year term; election last held October 24, 2004 (next to be held in October 2009); prime minister appointed by the president. Election results: President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali reelected for a fourth term; candidates from opposition: Mohamed Bouchiha (PUP), Mohamed Ali Halouani (Et-Tajdid) and Mounir Beji (PSL); percent of vote--Zine El Abidine Ben Ali 94.49% (officially).

Legislative--bicameral. Chamber of Deputies or Majlis al-Nuwaab (189 seats; 5-year terms; 152 seats are elected by popular vote for party lists on a winner-take-all basis). An additional 37 seats (20% of the total) are distributed to opposition parties on a proportional basis as provided for in 1999 constitutional amendments. Elections last held October 24, 2004 (next to be held in October 2009). Election results: percent of vote by party--RCD 92%; seats by party--RCD 152, MDS 14, PUP 11, UDU 7, Et-Tajdid 3, PSL 2. Note: The opposition increased number of seats from 34 to 37. A referendum in 2002 created a second chamber, the Chamber of Advisors. Elections for the Chamber of Advisors were held in July 2005.

Judicial--Nominally independent District Courts, Courts of Appeal, Highest Court (Cour de Cassation). Judges of the Highest Court are appointed by the President.

Political parties: Democratic Constitutional Rally (Rassemblement Constitutionnel Democratique--ruling party) or RCD, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali; Et-Tajdid Movement (Mohamed Harmel); Democratic Forum for Labor and Liberties or FDTL (Mustapha Ben Jaafar); Liberal Social Party or PSL (Mondher Thabet); Movement of Democratic Socialists or MDS (Ismail Boulahia); Popular Unity Party or PUP (Mohamed Bouchiha); Unionist Democratic Union or UDU (Ahmed Inoubli); Progressive Democratic Party or PDP (Maya Jribi); Green Party for Progress or PVP (Mongi Khamassi).

Political pressure groups and leaders: *Authorized*--Tunisian Human Rights League or LTDH (Mokhtar Trifi); Tunisian Association of Democratic Women or ATFD (Khadija Cherif); Tunisian Bar Association (Adbessatar Ben Moussa); Tunisian Journalists' Association or AJT (Fouzi Bouzayane). *Unauthorized*--An-Nahdha (Renaissance) the Islamic fundamentalist party (Rached El Ghanouchi, in exile); National Council for Liberties in Tunisia or CNLT (Siham Ben Sedrine); Movement of 18 October (Nejib Chebbi, Hamma Hammami, et. al) Congress for the Republic or CPR (Moncef Marzouki); Tunisian Communist Labor Party or POCT (Hamma Hammami); Tunisian Green Party or PVT (Abdelkader Zitouni); International Association for the Support of Political Prisoners or AISPP (Co-ordinator: Mokhtar Yahyaoui); Tunisian Journalists' Syndicate or SJT (Lotfi Hajji).

Administrative divisions: 24 governorates--Ariana, Beja, Ben Arous, Bizerte, El Kef, Gabes, Gafsa, Jendouba, Kairouan, Kasserine, Kebili, Mahdia, Manouba, Medenine, Monastir, Nabeul, Sfax, Sidi Bou Zid, Siliana, Sousse, Tataouine, Tozeur, Tunis, Zaghouan.

Suffrage: Universal at 20. (Active duty members of the military cannot vote.)

Economy

Real GDP (2006, 2000\$ mil): \$25,498.

Real GDP growth rate (2006): 5.2%.

Per capita GDP, PPP (2006): \$8,898.

Natural resources: natural gas, crude oil, phosphates, salt, iron ore.

Agriculture: *Products*--olives, dates, citrus, almonds, grains.

Industry: *Types*--petroleum, mining (particularly phosphate), textiles, footwear, food processing.

Services: Tourism, commerce, transport, communications.

Sector information as %GDP (2006 est.): *Agriculture*, 12%; *industry*, 33%; *services*, 55%.

Trade (2005): *Exports*--\$11.7 billion: hydrocarbons, agricultural products, phosphates, chemicals, textiles, mechanical, electric components. *By region*--Africa 9.9%, Americas 3.1%, Asia 3.7%, Europe 83.3%. *By country* (U.S.\$ million)--France, \$3807.07, Italy, \$2598.46, Germany, \$926.0, Spain, \$739.0; Libya, \$635.15; Belgium, \$282.61; UK, \$322.0; U.S. \$145.6. *Imports* (\$15.2 billion)--industrial goods and equipment, hydrocarbons, food, consumer goods. *By region*--Africa 7.8%, Americas 5.9% Asia 10.5%, Europe 75.8%. *By country* (U.S.\$ million)--France \$3461.61, Italy \$2836.15, Germany \$1200.61, Spain \$714.69, Libya \$743.0, China \$501.84, U.S. \$435.15.

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS

Tunisia is a republic with a strong presidential system dominated by a single political party. President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has been in office since 1987, when he deposed Habib Bourguiba, president since Tunisia's independence from France in 1956. The ruling party, the Democratic Constitutional Rally (RCD), was the sole legal party for 25 years--including when it was known as the Socialist Destourian Party (PSD)--and still dominates political life. The president is elected to 5-year terms--with virtually no opposition--and appoints a prime minister and cabinet, who play a strong role in the execution of policy. Regional governors and local administrators are also appointed by the central government; largely consultative mayors and municipal councils are elected. There is a bicameral legislative body. The Chamber of Deputies has 189 seats, 20% of which are reserved for the opposition. It plays a limited role as an arena for debate on national policy but never originates legislation and virtually always passes bills presented by the executive with only minor changes. A referendum in 2002 created a second chamber, the Chamber of Advisors. First-time elections for the Chamber of Advisors were held in July 2005. The judiciary is nominally independent, but responds to executive direction, especially in politically sensitive cases. The military is professional and does not play a role in politics.

Tunisia's independence from France in 1956 ended a protectorate established in 1881. President Bourguiba, who had been the leader of the independence movement, declared Tunisia a republic in 1957, ending the nominal rule of the Ottoman Beys. In June 1959, Tunisia adopted a constitution modeled on the French system, which established the basic outline of the highly centralized presidential system that continues today. The military was given a defined defensive role, which excluded participation in politics. Starting from independence, President Bourguiba placed strong emphasis on economic and social development, especially education, the status of women, and the creation of jobs, policies that continued under the Ben Ali administration. The result was strong social progress--high literacy and school attendance rates, low population growth rates, and relatively low poverty rates--and generally steady economic growth. These pragmatic policies have contributed to social and political stability.

Progress toward full democracy has been slow. Over the years, President Bourguiba stood unopposed for re-election several times and was named "President for Life" in 1974 by a constitutional amendment. At the time of independence, the Neo-Destourian Party (later the PSD)--enjoying broad support because of its role at the forefront of the independence movement--became the sole legal party. Opposition parties were banned until 1981.

When President Ben Ali came to power in 1987, he promised greater democratic openness and respect for human rights, signing a "national pact" with opposition parties. He oversaw constitutional and legal changes, including abolishing the concept of President for life, the establishment of presidential term limits, and provision for greater opposition party participation in political life. But the ruling party, renamed the Democratic Constitutional Rally (RCD), continued to dominate the political scene because of its historic popularity and the advantage it enjoyed as the ruling party. Ben Ali ran for re-election unopposed in 1989 and 1994. In the multiparty era, he won 99.44% of the vote in 1999 and 94.49% of the vote in 2004. In both elections he faced weak opponents. The RCD won all seats in the Chamber of Deputies in 1989, and won all of the directly elected seats in the 1994, 1999, and 2004 elections. However, constitutional amendments provided for the distribution of additional seats to the opposition parties by 1999 and 2004. Currently, five opposition parties share 37 of the 189 seats in the Chamber of Deputies. A May 2002 referendum approved constitutional changes proposed by Ben Ali that allowed him to run for a fourth term in 2004 (and a fifth, his final, because of age limits on presidential candidates, in 2009), and provided judicial immunity during and after his presidency. The referendum also created a second parliamentary chamber, the Chamber of Advisors, and provided for other changes.

There are currently eight legal opposition parties, the Social Democratic Movement (MDS), the Popular Unity Party (PUP), the Union of Democratic Unionists (UDU), Et-Tajdid (also called the Renewal Movement), the Liberal Social Party (PSL), and the Green Party for Progress (PVP), plus the Democratic Progressive Party (PDP) and the Democratic Forum for Labor and Liberties (FDTL), the only two not represented in the Chamber of Deputies. The parties are generally weak and divided and face considerable restrictions on their ability to organize. The Islamist opposition party, An-Nahdha, was allowed to operate openly in the late 1980s and early 1990s despite a ban on religiously based parties. The government outlawed An-Nahdha as a terrorist organization in 1991 and arrested its leaders and thousands of party members and sympathizers, accusing them of plotting to overthrow the president. The party is no longer openly active in Tunisia, and its leaders operate from exile in London. Several pro-democracy activists have been denied permission to establish other opposition political parties.

While there are thousands of official, established non-governmental organizations, civil society remains weak. The Tunisian Human Rights League (LTDH), the first human rights organization in Africa and the Arab world, operates under restrictions and suffers from internal divisions. The Tunisian Association of Democratic Women (ATFD), the Young Lawyers Association, and the Bar Association also are active. The government has denied legal status to a handful of other human rights advocacy groups who, nonetheless, attempt to organize and publicize information on the human rights situation in the country.

Despite the Government of Tunisia's stated commitment to making progress toward a democratic system, citizens do not enjoy political freedom. The government imposes restrictions on freedom of association and speech and does not allow a free press. Many critics have called for clearer, effective distinctions between executive, legislative, and judicial powers. Foreign media, including foreign-based satellite television channels, have criticized the Tunisian Government for the lack of press freedom. Tunisia ranked number 148 out of 167 countries in the 2006 Reporters Without Borders list of World Press Freedom rankings. As reflected in the State Department's annual human rights report, there are frequent reports of widespread torture and abuse of prisoners, especially political prisoners.

Trade unions have played a key role in Tunisia's history since the struggle for independence, when the 1952 assassination of labor leader Farhat Hached was a catalyst for the final push against French domination. The General Union of Tunisian Workers (UGTT), the country's sole labor confederation, has generally focused on bread-and-butter issues, but at some critical moments in Tunisia's history has played a decisive role in the nation's political life. Despite a drop in union membership from 400,000 to about 250,000 as the structure of the Tunisian economy changed, the UGTT continues to hold a prominent place in Tunisia's political and social life, and negotiates with government and the umbrella employer group for higher wages and better benefits. The current leadership under Abdesslem Jerad was elected at the 21st UGTT Congress held in December 2006.

Tunisia is a leader in the Arab world in promoting the legal and social status of women. A Personal Status Code was adopted shortly after independence in 1956, which, among other things, gave women full legal status (allowing them to run and own businesses, have bank accounts, and seek passports under their own authority). It also, for the first time in the Arab world, outlawed polygamy. The government required parents to send girls to school, and today more than 50% of university students are women. Rights of women and children were further enhanced by 1993 reforms, which included a provision to allow Tunisian women to transmit citizenship even if they are married to a foreigner and living abroad. The government has supported a remarkably successful family planning program that has reduced the population growth rate to just over 1% per annum, contributing to Tunisia's economic and social stability.

Tunisia's judiciary is headed by the Court of Cassation, whose judges are appointed by the president. The country is divided administratively into 24 governorates. The president appoints all governors.

Principal Government Officials

President--Zine El Abidine Ben Ali
Prime Minister--Mohamed Ghannouchi
Minister of State--Abdelaziz Ben Dhia
Minister of Foreign Affairs--Abdelwahab Abdallah
Minister of National Defense--Kamel Morjane
Ambassador to the United States--Mohamed Nejib Hachana

Tunisia's embassy in the United States is located at 1515 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20005 (tel. 1-202-862-1850, fax 1-202-862-1858).

ECONOMY

Tunisia's economy has emerged from rigid state control and is now mostly liberalized. World Bank and IMF support, coupled with prudent economic policies implemented by the Tunisian Government in the mid-eighties after a balance of payments crisis, has resulted in regular stable growth. Although this faltered after 9/11, the economy has since bounced back, thanks to healthy exports, renewed growth in tourism, and favorable climatic conditions which boosted agricultural production.

Manufacturing industries, producing largely for export, are a major source of foreign currency revenue. Industrial production represents about 28 percent of GDP and primarily consists of petroleum, mining (particularly phosphates), textiles, footwear, food processing, and electrical and mechanical manufactures. Textiles are a major source of foreign currency revenue, with more than 90% of production being exported. While the end of the Multifiber Arrangement in 2005 eroded Tunisia's competitiveness in its traditional European textile markets, to counteract this, manufacturers are successfully upgrading product lines and exporting smaller quantities of higher value items.

Tourism is a major source of foreign exchange, representing about 20 percent of hard currency receipts, as well as an important sector for employment. 6.5 million tourists visited Tunisia in 2006, hailing largely from Europe and North Africa. While the influx of tourists represents a boon to the economy, Tunisia's large expatriate population (about 1 million) also makes a positive and significant contribution. Over the past five years, remittances from abroad averaged 1.61 million dinars (approximately 1.21 million USD) a year, or roughly 5 percent of Tunisia's GDP and one fourth of the country's foreign currency earnings.

Soaring oil prices have hit the Tunisian economy hard. The country is a net importer of hydrocarbon products. Domestic crude production is approximately 112,000 barrels per day, but refining capacity is only about 30,000 barrels a day. Proven reserves are in the region of 300 million barrels. Tunisia has one oil refinery in Bizerte on the north coast and in May 2006 awarded a tender for a second at La Skhira near Gabes to Qatar Petroleum. Natural gas production is currently about 3 million tons oil equivalent. Proven reserves are about 2.8 trillion cubic feet, two-thirds of which are located offshore. British Gas is the major developer of the natural gas industry, and the largest foreign investor in Tunisia.

Economically and commercially, Tunisia is very closely linked to Europe. Tunisia signed an Association Agreement with the EU, due to go into effect in 2008, which will eliminate customs tariffs and other trade barriers on a wide range of goods and services. In advance of the 2008 implementation of this Association Agreement, the Government of Tunisia embarked on a program, "Mise à Niveau", (industrial upgrading) to improve the competitiveness of Tunisian industry. Launched on a pilot scale in 1996, the "Mise à Niveau" program is supported in part by EU grants. The program consists of technical assistance, training, subsidies, and infrastructure upgrades aimed at encouraging and assisting Tunisian private sector industrial restructuring.

EU member states also provide the bulk of FDI, much of which has come in under the Government of Tunisia privatization program launched in 1987. In May 2006 the Government of Tunisia announced that overall its privatization program had raised \$1.9 billion, of which \$1.4 billion was foreign capital. This does not include the \$2.25 billion the Government of Tunisia recently received for the sale to Dubai Holding of a 35% share in the national telecommunications authority, Tunisie Telecom. Persian Gulf investments in telecommunications, real estate, and energy are also a major source of FDI.

The Ministry of Industry and Energy is responsible for a program to improve the international competitiveness of Tunisian industry in preparation for free trade with the European Union. Launched on a pilot scale in 1996, the "Mise à Niveau" (industrial upgrading) program is supported in part by EU grants incorporated into the EU Association Agreement. The program combines government technical assistance, training, subsidies, and infrastructure upgrades aimed at encouraging and assisting Tunisian private sector industrial restructuring. More than 2,300 companies have applied to join the program, with more than half accepted.

A Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) with the U.S. was signed in October 2002 and follow-up TIFA Councils were held in October 2003 and June 2005, but little progress has been made towards generating the necessary reforms required to engender a free trade agreement between the U.S. and Tunisia. The framework for a multilateral trade agreement with Egypt, Jordan, and Morocco, known as the Agadir Agreement, has also been signed. The Agadir Agreement creates a potential market of over 100 million people across North Africa and into the Middle East.

The government still retains control over certain "strategic" sectors of the economy (finance, hydrocarbons, aviation, electricity and gas distribution, and water resources) but the private sector is playing an increasingly important role. Tunisia is a founding member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and is publicly committed to a free trade regime and export-led growth. Most goods can be imported without prior licensing, although non-tariff administrative barriers sometimes delay imports of goods. Significant import duties, coupled with high consumption taxes on certain items and a value-added tax (VAT), add considerably to the local price of imported goods.

The Government of Tunisia is beginning to take a more proactive stance on intellectual property rights (IPR) enforcement and education. Tunisia's recent intellectual property rights law is designed to meet WTO TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property) minimum standards and there is on-going collaboration between the United States and Tunisian governments to promote public awareness of these rights.

Tunisia's timely completion of its IMF program (1987-1994) and subsequent fiscal conservatism have earned it investment grade ratings from a number of international institutions, although Standard and Poor has noted that ratings on Tunisia are constrained by its highly centralized political system and the need for further structural reforms. In mid-2005 the Tunisian Central Bank issued a new Euro-denominated bond on the London financial market. The issue totaled over \$450 million (400 million Euros) with a maturity of 15 years. In 2004 the Government of Tunisia sold a similar bond with a total value of nearly \$550 million and seven-year maturity.

The Central Bank is moving from direct management of the financial sector towards a more traditional supervisory and regulatory role. Commercial banks are permitted to participate in the forward foreign exchange market. The dinar is convertible for current account transactions but some convertible dinar/foreign exchange account transactions still require Central Bank authorization. Total convertibility of the Tunisian dinar is probably still some years away. The dinar is traded on an intra-bank market. Trading operates around a managed float established by the Central Bank (based upon a basket of the Euro, the U.S. Dollar and the Japanese Yen). The stock exchange remains under the supervision of the state-run financial market council, and lists about 50 companies. A new phase of the Mise a Niveau program aims to double this figure.

Tunisia has a relatively well-developed infrastructure that includes six commercial seaports and six international airports. The prequalification phase for a seventh airport near the coast at Enfidha was announced in April 2004. The project, a Build-to-Own 40-year concession eventually able to handle 30 million passengers per year, was awarded in May 2007 to a Turkish group and construction is expected to begin in July 2007. A tender for a deep water port in the same region is expected also.

Average annual income per capita in Tunisia is approaching \$3000. The minimum monthly legal wage for a 48-hour week was recently raised to approximately \$180. Tunisia's goal of pushing per capita incomes into the middle emerging market level calls for an average 6-7% growth rate instead of 4-5%. In 2006, GDP growth was 5.2%, but inflation spiked to 4.5%, from 2% the year before. Official figures claim unemployment is around 14%, but it is generally believed to be much higher in some regions. Despite the present low rate of population growth, a demographic peak is now hitting higher education and the job market. Tunisia has invested heavily in education and the number of students enrolled at university has soared from 41,000 in 1986 to over 360,000. Providing jobs for these highly educated people represents a major challenge for the Government of Tunisia.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

President Ben Ali has maintained Tunisia's long-time policy of seeking good relations with the West, including the United States, while playing an active role in Arab and African regional bodies. President Bourguiba took a nonaligned stance but emphasized close relations with Europe and the United States.

Tunisia has long been a voice for moderation and realism in the Middle East. President Bourguiba was the first Arab leader to call for the recognition of Israel, in a speech in Jericho in 1965. Tunisia served as the headquarters of the Arab League from 1979 to 1990 and hosted the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) headquarters from 1982 to 1993. (The PLO Political Department remains in Tunis.) Tunisia consistently has played a moderating role in the negotiations for a comprehensive Middle East peace. In 1993, Tunisia was the first Arab country to host an official Israeli delegation as part of the Middle East peace process. The Government of Tunisia operated an Interests Section in Israel from April 1996 until the outbreak of the second Intifada in 2000. Israeli citizens may travel to Tunisia on their Israeli passports.

Wedge between Algeria and Libya, Tunisia has sought to maintain good relations with its neighbors despite occasionally strained relations. Tunisia and Algeria resolved a longstanding border dispute in 1993 and have cooperated in the construction of a natural gas pipeline through Tunisia that connects Algeria to Italy. In 2002, Tunisia signed an agreement with Algeria to demarcate the maritime frontier between the two countries.

Tunisia's relations with Libya have been erratic since Tunisia annulled a brief agreement to form a union in 1974. Diplomatic relations were broken in 1976, restored in 1977, and deteriorated again in 1980, when Libyan-trained rebels attempted to seize the town of Gafsa. In 1982, the International Court of Justice ruled in Libya's favor in the partition of the oil-rich continental shelf it shares with Tunisia. Libya's 1985 expulsion of Tunisian workers and military threats led Tunisia to sever relations. Relations were normalized again in 1987. While supporting the UN sanctions imposed following airline bombings, Tunisia has been careful to maintain positive relations with her neighbor. Tunisia supported the lifting of UN sanctions against Libya in 2003, and Libya is again becoming a major trading partner, with 2005 exports to Libya valued at \$472.2 million and imports at \$509.9 million.

Tunisia has supported the development of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), which includes Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, and Libya. Progress on Maghreb integration remains stymied, however, as a result of bilateral tensions between some member countries. Tunisia has played a positive role in trying to resolve these tensions.

U.S.-TUNISIAN RELATIONS

The United States has very good relations with Tunisia, which date back more than 200 years. The United States has maintained official representation in Tunis almost continuously since 1795, and the American Friendship Treaty with Tunisia was signed in 1799. The two governments are not linked by security treaties, but relations have been close since Tunisia's independence. U.S.-Tunisian relations suffered briefly after the 1985 Israeli raid on PLO headquarters in Tunis, after the 1988 Tunis assassination of PLO terrorist Abu Jihad, and in 1990 during the Gulf War. In each case, however, relations warmed again quickly, reflecting strong bilateral ties. The United States and Tunisia have an active schedule of joint military exercises. U.S. security assistance historically has played an important role in cementing relations. The U.S.-Tunisian Joint Military Commission meets annually to discuss military cooperation, Tunisia's defense modernization program, and other security matters.

The United States first provided economic and technical assistance to Tunisia under a bilateral agreement signed March 26, 1957. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) managed a successful program until its departure in 1994, when Tunisia's economic advances led to the country's "graduation" from USAID funding. Tunisia enthusiastically supported the U.S.-North African Economic Partnership (USNAEP), designed to promote U.S. investment in, and economic integration of, the Maghreb region. The program provided over \$4 million in assistance to Tunisia between 2001 and 2003. The [Middle East Partnership Initiative \(MEPI\)](#) was launched in 2002 and incorporated the former USNAEP economic reform projects while adding bilateral and regional projects for education reform, civil society development and women's empowerment. In 2004, the MEPI Regional Office opened in Embassy Tunis. The Regional Office is staffed by American diplomats and regional specialists. It is responsible for coordinating MEPI activities in Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia in close coordination with the American Embassies in those countries.

American private assistance has been provided liberally since independence by foundations, religious groups, universities, and philanthropic organizations. The U.S. Government has supported Tunisia's efforts to attract foreign investment. The United States and Tunisia concluded a bilateral investment treaty in 1990 and an agreement to avoid double taxation in 1989. In October 2002, the U.S. and Tunisia signed a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA), and in October 2003 held the first TIFA Council Meeting in Washington, DC.

American firms seeking to invest in Tunisia and export to Tunisia can receive insurance and financing for their business through U.S. Government agencies, including the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the Export-Import Bank. The best prospects for foreigners interested in the Tunisian market are in high technology, energy, agribusiness, food processing, medical care and equipment, and the environmental and tourism sectors.

Principal U.S. Officials

Ambassador--[Robert F. Godec](#)
Deputy Chief of Mission--Marc Desjardins
Political/Economic Counselor--Dorothy C. Shea
Commercial Attaché--Beth Mitchell

Marriage in Tunisia

Specially designated Notaries at the City Hall Registry Office “*Bureau de l'Etat Civil a la Municipalite*” perform marriages in Tunisia. Only marriages celebrated before such an official in compliance with Tunisian Law No. 57 August 1, 1957, as amended are legal. If one or both of the contracting parties are foreigners, Tunisian law requires that the marriage also fulfill the marriage requirements of the foreigner's country. Neither a fixed period of residence nor publication of bans is required. A religious ceremony may subsequently be performed at the option of the couple. Marriage may occur between:

- Tunisian men and foreign women without any requirements.
- Foreign men and foreign women provided each party obtains from their respective embassies the documents required by the Tunisian authorities prior to marriage.
- Foreign non-Muslim men and Tunisian Muslim women provided the man converts. The “Mufti”, the national religious authority, delivers the Certificate of Conversion that must be presented to City Hall before a marriage can take place. The conversion process can take three months or longer.

The prospective husband and wife are each required to submit the documents listed below to the City Hall Registry Office in order to obtain an appointment for the marriage. All documents must be translated into Arabic or French by a sworn translator and all, except the passport, are retained in Tunisian Civil files. *Please contact the Embassy for an updated list of sworn translators.* The original marriage certificate is in Arabic. Official translations into French may be obtained from the official registrar.

Required documents: All must be originals or certified copies. All documents not in English must be accompanied by certified translations into English.

1. **Birth Certificate bearing the impression seal of the issuing authority.**
2. **Passport**
3. **Affidavit of Eligibility to marry** - Tunisia requires proof of legal capacity to enter into a marriage contract in the form of certification by competent authority that no impediment exists to the marriage. No such document exists in the United States. Therefore, the parties to a prospective marriage abroad will have to execute an affidavit stating that they are free to marry. This is called an affidavit of eligibility to marry and must be executed at the American Embassy or consulate in the country in which the marriage will occur. The fee for the American Consular Officer's certification of the affidavit is \$30.00.
WARNING: Title 22, Section 1203 of the United States Code provides that any person who willfully and corruptly commits perjury in swearing an affidavit before an American Consular Officer may be charged, proceeded against, tried, convicted and dealt with in any district of the United States, in the same manner, in all respects, as if such offense had been committed in the United States.
4. **Prenuptial Marriage Certificate** – This is a medical certificate establishing eligibility to contract marriage. This certificate must have a maximum validity of two months at the time of marriage. Each party must be free of any contagious diseases (primarily tuberculosis and syphilis), alcoholism and mental illness. The City Hall in Tunis will supply a printed form for this certificate upon request. All doctors practicing in Tunisia are authorized to perform these medical examinations.
5. **Fee**
6. **Information**
 - Full name
 - Date and Place of Birth
 - Profession
 - Current address in Tunisia
 - Full names of parents
 - Verbal declaration that they are free to marry
 - Name of two witnesses

As applicable, the following documents may be required:

1. **Divorce Decree(s)** - Such decrees must be final and valid in the country of the interested party's nationality. For example a Spaniard who has been divorced by the authority of another country, such divorce not being recognized by Spain, cannot contract marriage in Tunisia because Tunisian law requires compliance with both, Tunisian laws and the national law of the foreigner.
2. **Prior spouse's death certificate** - bearing the seal of the issuing authorities.
3. **Written Consent of parent or guardian** if either party is under 20 years of age (article 5,6 and 153 of the Tunisian Personal Code)
4. **Certificate from the Mufti in Tunis** - that a non-Muslim man who intends to marry a Muslim woman has been accepted into the Muslim religion (Interpretation of the Koran Scriptures having legal effect 7shaoual 1383). A non-Muslim woman does not have to become Muslim in order to marry a Muslim man.



Replacing Lost or Stolen US Driver's Licences

The Embassy is not authorized to replace expired, lost and stolen U.S. driver's licenses. Only the Department of Motor Vehicles in the driver's home state can perform that service.

If you had your driver's license stolen in Tunisia, report it immediately to the police station having jurisdiction over the area where the theft occurred. The commissariat will issue a Recepissé de Déclaration de Perte ou de Vol de Pieces d'Identité ("Acknowledgement of Declaration of Theft of Identity Documents".)

No report will be made for lost driver's licenses.

This recepissé will generally substitute for a driver's license for a few weeks, but replacements may only be obtained at the DMV in the state where the license was originally issued. If your state requires a sworn affidavit or a notarized application for a replacement license, the Embassy's Office of American Services can notarize the application. Notarial services are open (by appointment) Monday thru Friday except on American and French holidays. Appointments are made online. Please refer to the Embassy's website at: <http://tunisia.usembassy.gov>

International Driver's License:

The American Automobile Association (AAA) issues International driver's licenses in the United States. You will have to request an application "APPLICATION FOR INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMIT or INTERAMERICAN DRIVING PERMIT" from the American Automobile Association, 1000 A A A Drive Heathrow FL 32746-5063

or from your local AAA office (please check their website (<http://www.aaa.com>) for state-by-state recommendations.) Return the completed application to the appropriate state address, or to the address in Florida provided above, with a photocopy of your valid U.S. driver's license, two passport-size (2 x 2 inches or 5 x 5 cm.) photographs and a check (U.S. banks only) or International money order for \$10.00 payable To the AAA. The International driver's license issued by the AAA is valid for one year.

The American Automobile Touring Alliance offers permits through the National Automobile Club. Call (650) 294-7000 (M-F, 8:30-5:00 Pacific Time) or access their website at (<http://www.nationalautoclub.com>). This international permit is valid for only one year from the date of issue, and must be accompanied by a valid U.S. Driver's license.

The International Driving Permit is translated into the nine official languages of the United Nations, including French and English and serves as a translation to be used in conjunction with the visitor's valid driver's license. It can be useful in emergencies such as traffic violations or auto accidents, particularly When a foreign language is involved.



Medical Resources

The Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Tunis, Tunisia assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the medical professionals, medical facilities or air ambulance services whose names appear on the following lists. Names are listed alphabetically, and the order in which they appear has no other significance. Professional credentials and areas of expertise are provided directly by the medical professional, medical facility or air ambulance service.

Emergency phone number: 190

Ambulance (with doctor and nurse)

S.A.M.U.: Service d'Aide Médicale Urgente 71-341-807 or 71-335-500
10 Rue Abou kacem Chebbi, Montleury
1089, Tunis Chebbi, Tunis

Poison Control

CAMUR: Centre d'Assistance Médicale Urgente et Réanimation 71-335-500
Rue Abou Kacem Chebbi,
1089, Tunis Chebbi, Tunis.

Emergency Medical Facilities

Military Hospital 71-391-133
Place de Tunis
1008 Montfleury

La Soukra Clinic 71-758-888
Rue Cheikh Mohamed Ennaifer
2036 La Soukra Emergency : 71-758-666
E-mail: cntunis@hexabyte.tn

Polyclinic Amen La Marsa 71-749-000
15 avenue de La République
2070 La Marsa
E-mail : docteurguelmami@yahoo.fr

Policlinic Berges du Lac 71-960-000
Rue du Lac Constance
1053 Les Berges du Lac
E-mail : polyclinique.lac@gnet.net

Polyclinique El Manar 71-885-000
Rue Habib Chatti
2092 Manar II, Tunis
E-mail : clinique.elmanar@planet.tn

Private Ambulances

Apollo Ambulances	71-843-434 or 98-358-916
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8 rue Apollo XI
1082 C. Mahrajène, Tunis
E-mail: apollo.ambulances@meds-cape.com

Allo Docteur-Allo Ambulance	71-780-000 or 71-781-000
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15 rue Ahmed.Amine
1005 Omrane, Tunis
71-780-884 or 71-841-979

Ambulance Echifa	71-585-999 or 98-243-552
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2 rue 61572
Immeuble Chams
1068 Cité Rommana, Tunis
E-mail : ambulanceechifa@yahoo.fr

Amen La Marsa Ambulance	71-749-000
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15 Avenue de la République
2070 La Marsa, Tunis
E-mail : docteurguelmami@yahoo.fr

Doctors

General Practitioners

Dr. Mohamed Enys Chérif	71-980-600 or 98-318-142
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2, rue Imam Chafai
2070 La Marsa, Tunis
E-mail: mecherif@tunet.tn

Dr. Solange Laroussi	71- 254-435 or 71-343-753
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58 Avenue de Londres
1001 Tunis République, Tunis
E-mail : solange.laroussi@gnet.tn

Dr. Suzanne Schleith Amara	71-784-470 or 98-305-324
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110 Avenue de la Liberté, 1002 Tunis
E-mail : Susanne.amara@planet.tn

Internal medicine

Dr. Mohamed Aissaoui	71-883-553
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5 Avenue T. Ben Ammar
2092 Manar II, Tunis
E-mail : aissaouimohamed@planet.tn

Cardiologists

Dr. Abdessattar Ben Hamida **71-845-662**

Boulevard du 7 Novembre, Clinique Taoufik
1002 Tunis Belvédère, Tunis

Dr. Nabil Marsit **71-882-289**

Rue Habib Chatti, Résidence les Jasmins
2092 Manar II, Tunis

Pediatricians

Dr. Dhiaeddine Bibi **71-755-318**

Rue Cheikh Zaghrouni,
Cité Jamil , Escalier B, 2nd Floor
2091 El Menzah VI, Tunis

Dr. Mariem Darghouth Hachaichi **71-746-660 or 71-980-929**

19 Place 7 Novembre
2070 La Marsa, Tunis
E-mail : mdarghmzal@yahoo.fr

Dr. Néjib Raboudi **71-715-208 or 98-312-948**

Avenue de l'Aire Nouvelle
Cité Nasr I
2080 Ariana, Tunis

Dr. Slim Maherzi **71-747826**

1 Rue Saâda
2078 Marsa Safsaf, Tunis
E-mail : smeherzi@yahoo.fr

Dr. Soufia Helioui **71-886-829**

28 Rue Mosbah Jarbou
2092 El Manar II, Tunis
E-mail : sfhelioui@contactoffice.net

Dermatologists

Dr. Mamoud Chafai **71-848-211**

Clinique Taoufik
Boulevard 7 Novembre, Nord Hilton
1002 Tunis Belvédère, Tunis
E-mail : chaffai.ma@planet.tn

Dr. Nabil Hachich **71-889-911**

Rue 7151 Résidence les Jasmins
Bâtiment H , Rez de chaussé
2092 Manar II

Dr. Ridha Gharbi **71-801-010**

Voie X2, Centre Médical Ibn Zohr
1003 Cité Khadhra, Tunis
E-mail : r.gharbi@topnet.tn

Dr. Sarah Ben Meriem **71-741-160 or 71-748-749**
2 Rue Tahar Ben Achour
2070 La Marsa, Tunis
E-mail : sarahbmeriem@yahoo.fr

OB/GYN

Dr. Amine Sami Ben Sassi **71-729-727**
19 Avenue Habib Bourguiba
1er étage
2070 La Marsa Ville
E-mail: sami.amine@planet.tn

Dr. Dorgham Ghazi Bibi **71-842-405 ext. 1031**
Clinique Taoufik
Bd du 7 Novembre, Nord Hilton
1002 Tunis Belvédère, Tunis
E-mail: polyclinique.taoufik@planet.tn

Dr. Khaled Terras **70-860-600**
Maghreb Medical
Rue du Roi Abdelaziz Aal Saoud
2092 Manar III, Tunis
E.mail : Khaled.terras@rns.tn

Dr. Meriem Abassi **71-870-852**
28 Rue M. Jarbou
2092 Manar II

Neurologists

Dr. Abdellaziz Annabi **71-829-272**
Avenue H. Nouria
Résidence le Palace
Nasr II
2037 La Marsa, Tunis

Dr. Salah Oueslati **71-842-815 or 71-783-168**
Voie X2, Cite Ibn Z Voie X2, Centre Médical Ibn Zohr
1003 Cité Khadhra, Tunis
E-mail : oueslatisalah@planet.tn

Ophthalmologist

Dr. Chedly Bouzouaya **71-841-087**
83 Avenue Mohamed V
1002 Tunis-Belvédère, Tunis
E-mail : Chedly@bouzouaya.com

Dr. Mehdi Bouacha **71-841-267**
Centre Médical Saint Augustin
15 Rue Abou Hanifa
1082 Cité El Mahrajane
Mutuelleville, Tunis
E-mail: mehdi.bouacha@laposte.net

Dr. Slim Kallala **71-749-809**
5 Rue Naser Bey
2070 La Marsa
E-mail : slimkallala@planet.tn

Orthopedists

Dr. Faouzi Charfi **71-240-018 or 71-347-321**
23 Avenue de Paris
1001 Tunis République, Tunis
E-mail : faouzi.charfi@gnet.tn

Dr. Hamadi Ben Hamida **71-873-108 or 98-308-070**
Immeuble le Campus. #30 A, 5th floor
2092 Manar II, Tunis
E-mail : hamadibenhamida@yahoo.fr

Dr. Moncef Ben Abid **71-844-344**
Clinique Taoufik, Cabinet # 118
Bd du 7 Novembre, Nord Hilton
1002 Tunis Belvédère, Tunis

Physical Therapist

Dr. Syrine Maaref **71-744-285 or 98-525-116**
3 Rue El Maari (Near Lycée Cailloux)
2070 La Marsa, Tunis

E.N.T

Dr. Ali Zaouche **71-870-265**
28 rue Mosbah Jarbou
2092 El Manar 2, Tunis

Dr. Imen Zekri Landolsi **70-730-336 or 98-935-148**
5 Avenue Taieb Mhiri
Immeuble Morsi, 4th floor
2080 Ariana, Tunis
E-mail : dr_imen_zekri@yahoo.fr

Dr. Mohamed Bechir Bey **71-742-678**
5 Place 7 Novembre
2078 la Marsa

Dr. Ridha Ellouze **71-799-772**
Voie X2, Centre Médical Ibn Zohr
1003 Cité Khadhra, Tunis
E-mail: dr.rellouz.@planet.tn

Surgeons

Dr. Ridha Mzabi **71-799-613**
Residence Thalassa
Rue du Lac Neuchatel
1053 Les Berges du Lac, Tunis
E-mail: ridha.mzabi@wanadoo.tn

Dr. Tahar Khalfallah **71-764-433 or 98-311-230**
Hopital Mongi Slim ou Clinique Soukra
E-mail : tahar.khalfallah@rns.tn

Plastic Surgeons

Dr. Sami Dlimi **71-894-034 or 98-271-316**
8 bis Rue Appolo XI
1082 Cité Mahrajane, Tunis
E-mail : dlimi.samy@planet.tn
Website: www.drdlimi.com

Urologists

Dr. Mokhtar Hajri **70-860-719 or 70-860-455**
Maghreb Medical: 1st floor, Cabinet E1
6 Avenue Abdelziz Aal Saoud
2092 Manar II, Tunis
E-mail: hajri.ims@planet.tn

Labs

Dr. Ali Enneifer **71-801-000 or 71-785-591**
4 Avenue des Etats-Unis d'Amérique
1002 Tunis Belvédère, Tunis
E-mail: lam.ennaifer@gnet.tn

Dr. Dhous Derouiche Kallel **71-963-778**
Rue du Lac Lemman
Imm croissant du lac 1er étage App. A1
1053 Les berges du Lac, Tunis
E-mail : lamderouiche@hexabyte.tn

Dr. Oualid Triki **71-789-165**
Immeuble Nord Hilton-Bloc EI-1st Floor
Rue Micipsa 1082 Tunis
E-Mail : oualidtriki@lycos.com

Dr. Senda Jribi Masmoudi **70-860-680**
Centre Dorra App 2, Bloc B
2092 Manar III, Tunis

Dentists

Dr. Ahmed Ridha Yassine **71-716-339, 71-715-216**
24 rue des Mimosas
2080 Nouvelle Ariana
E-mail: yassineridha@yahoo.fr

Dr. Fares Ghariani **71-980-274**
13 Place du 20 Mars
2070-La Marsa Plage, Tunis
E-mail : aresiani@yahoo.fr

Dr. Hanem Ben Miled**71-741-000 or 71-744-800**

19 Bis Avenue de La République
Centre Sabri de Médecine
2078 Marsa Safsaf, Tunis
E-mail : h.benmiled@planet.tn

Dr. Mohamed Ridha Ghariani**71-748-752**

12 rue des Cypres
2070 La Marsa, Tunis
(Only mornings till noon)

Orthodontist**Dr. Alia Bouratbine****71-893-141 or 71-281-605**

9 Rue Rhodes
Mutuelleville
1002 Tunis Belvédère
E-mail: sabou@planet.tn

INFORMATION on vaccinations and other health precautions, such as safe food and water precautions and insect bite protection, may be obtained from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's hotline for international travelers at 1-877-FYI-TRIP (1-877-394-8747); fax 1-888-CDC-FAXX (1-888-232-3299), or via the CDC's internet site at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel>. For information about outbreaks of infectious diseases abroad, consult the World Health Organization's (WHO) website at <http://www.who.int/en>. Further health information for travelers is available at <http://www.who.int/ith>.

MEDICAL INSURANCE: The Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and whether it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. [Please see our information on medical insurance overseas](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1470.html) at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1470.html.



Transportation

Taxis

Taxis are plentiful on the street of Tunis. Fares are metered and start with a base fare of 300 millimes. Most drivers will speak French and will accept a maximum of 4 passengers. Not all taxis have air-conditioning and/or seat belts.

When a taxi is requested by telephone, rather than hailed on the street, the base fare will be higher. The phone number for the most popular taxi service is listed below.

Allo Taxi 71 783.311

Buses

Americans are advised **not to use the yellow city buses**. They are usually filled beyond a safe capacity and harassment is likely to be a problem. A private company, TGV, operates bus lines from El Manar, El Menzah V & VI and La Marsa to downtown Tunis. Fares are 700 millimes to 1 TD. These are the **green buses** that stop at any city bus stop. These buses only pick up passengers as long as they have empty seats.

Trains

A commuter train connects the beach cities with downtown Tunis. Named TGM (Tunis-Goulette-Marsa) it stops in La Marsa, Sidi Bou Saïd, Carthage and a number of smaller towns before its arrival in Tunis. First and second class fares are available. Fares are based on the distance traveled, but the most expensive fare is approximately 1 TD. The Tunis station is at the east end of Avenue Habib Bourguiba. A separate train system offers service to other cities in Tunisia. The station is located at Place de Barcelone.

Tram

Tunis has several tram lines running across the city. Routes run from the downtown area, near Avenue Habib Bourguiba to the areas of le Bardo, Lafayette, Cite Jardins, El Menzah and Ariana. Fares vary with the distance traveled.



Learning the Languages

The Bourguiba School offers intensive courses in French and Arabic at reasonable rates.

- **Address:** IBLV 47, Av.de la Liberté.1002 Tunis.Tunisie.
- Phone: (216/71)832.418-832.923
- Fax:(216/71)833.684
- E-Mail: iblv@iblv.rnu.tn
- Website: <http://www.iblv.rnu.tn/english/index.html>

The French Cultural Center provides classes in French.

Tunis

- Adresse : 87, avenue de la liberté - 1002 Tunis Belvédère
- Phone : (216) 71.105.200
- Fax : (216) 71.105.203
- E-mail : ifc@planet.tn
- Website : www.ifctunisie.org

Sfax

- Address : 9, Avenue Habib Bourguiba - 3000 Sfax
- Phone : (216) 74.221.533
- Fax: (216) 74.296.362
- E-mail : ifcsfax.adm@tunet.tn
-

Sousse

- Address : Villa Marini - 4, rue des Jasmins - 4002 Sousse
- Phone : (216) 73.227.935



Activities

Hash House Harriers: This group of people from all different nationalities get together on a weekly basis to run or walk through different places in and around Tunis. Run and walk marked trails average between 6 and 10 kms. This is a very family friendly group that also organized two beach camping trips per year, as well as additional weekend trips throughout the year. Contact Tim Daly at hashgrandmaster@planet.tn for run details.

International Women's Group of Tunisia: The Women's Club is currently very active. Contact iwgtunis@hotmail.co.uk to be put on their mailing list.

Tennis: There are a number of Tennis clubs in the Tunis area.

Tennis Club De Tunis,
20 Bis Rue Alain Savary.
Tunis 1002
71-287-379 or 71-894-487. www.tct.org.tn Yearly dues (as of 6/07) TD500

Tennis Club De Carthage
Av. de la Republique
Carthage Hannibal
71-277-313 Yearly dues (as of 6/07) TD 500 per person, TD850 per couple
Adult and children lessons available

Tennis Club La Marsa
Route de Tunis
2070 La Marsa
22-915-273 Yearly dues TD260 per Adult, TD250 person child.

Horseback riding lessons:

Hippoclub, Gammarth: Riding lessons are available in English, French, Italian, Arabic and German. Occasional Sunday afternoon beach rides will be announced by CLO. Contact Fadhil 21-563-826 or Stefanie 20-888-020 for more information. www.hippoclubdarnaouar.com

Bowling

Golden Bowling - 16 lanes
Ave. Principale 2045
Les Berge du lac de Tunis
71-960-096

Golden Tulip – 8 lanes
Ave. de la Promenade
2078 La Marsa
71-913-000

Golf

Carthage Golf Course
Chotrana 2-2036
La Soukra
71-765-919 . Yearly dues TD1100
Adult and children lessons available

Music Schools

Conservatoire de Musique de Riadh Fehri
Rue Manoubi Snoussi
Sidi Bou Said (behind Tam Tam)
71-740-995

L'Ecole de la Musique
209 Avenue Habib Bourguiba, La Kram
71-720-953 / 22-888-895 / 22-544-194

World Music
7 Rue Essaadda, La Marsa
71-980-486 / 22-206-913

Dance Classes

Evi Dance
Rue ibn Rochd
Carthage Amilcar
22-938-907
Classes in Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Hip-Hop available for adults and children.
Classes run from September – June.



Activities for Children

Belvedere Park, downtown near Place Pasteur, is the home of the city Zoo. Daily: winter 9-4pm, summer 9-7pm. This park also has very limited playground equipment and a few kiddie rides.

La Marsa Park, A large park with playgrounds, tennis courts, and a pet area. A great place for kids to ride\ their bikes or skateboard. Entrance Adult TD1, Child TD.500. Playground area also requires a TD1 admission per child

Dah Dah, Les Berges du Lac. This Tunisian amusement park also known as “Happy Land,” is spread over 9 hectares and offers a large variety of rides, mostly geared towards younger children.

Planetarium and interactive science museum

Boulevard 7 Novembre, Ariana. The planetarium offers several shows such as Discovering the Universe, Destination Planets, the Moon, and Comets. It offers the show in several languages.

Planet Sport, located between Carthage and Sidi Bou Saïd, offers aerobics for adults and children, Tae Kwon Do, and other activities for children.

Water Park, Zone Touristique, Gammarth, Route de Raoede (across from the Residence hotel, look for the large dome). Open 10am – 7pm daily. 10TD per Adult, 5TD per child.

Friguia Animal Park, located halfway between Sousse and Hammamet, has around 360 animals including giraffes, ostriches, elephants, tigers and leopards. Entrance is only 5TD (adult) and 3TD (child). Summer hours 9am - 7pm. Winter hours 9am – 4pm. Closed on Mondays.

International Mother, baby and toddler Group, this group meets every Wednesday morning from 10 12pm. A wonderful way for mothers (or fathers) of pre-school children to meet others from the international community. E-mail TunisCLO@state.gov



Schools in Tunis

This is by no means a comprehensive list. We suggest that you consult with other parents as you look for a school for your children.

ACST

American Cooperative School of Tunis

ACST- Km 10- Route de la Marsa

2045 Cite Taieb Mehiri, L'Aouina

71-760-905

Elementary office x151 – Ahlem Bejaoui

Middle/High office x150 – Jouda Daoud

Director office x 103 – Karima Loucif

ACST is located on the La Marsa highway, midway between Tunis and La Marsa. The ten-acre campus includes the main building complex, outdoor facilities for basketball, softball and soccer, as well as a gymnasium for indoor activities and a well-equipped playground. In addition, the school has a library with more than 7,000 books. The American school offers classes from PK-12, with a full day kindergarten.

Parents are generally pleased with the school, although some will comment that the sports programs for the middle school children are limited. This is due in part to the small size of the school and limited resources. There is an excellent swimming program for elementary through high school but interschool soccer and basketball is limited to high school. The school is offering a limited special needs program, 2006-2007 was the first year in existence and it is continuing to develop.

Bus transportation is provided.

For further information please contact the school by telephone at 71 760.571 or 71 760.905, by email at acst@acst.intl.tn or visit their website at www.acst.net

ECOLE FRANCAISE

A typical school day runs from 8-12 and 2-4pm. A high level of French is required. On-line registration is available.

abj@francophonestunisie.com.tn

Ecole Paul Verlaine - Primary

Rue Othman KAAK

2070 La Marsa

71-740-940 / 71-741-472

Verlaine.marsa@planet.tn

Lycée Gustave Flaubert – Secondary

16 Rue Othman KAAK

2078 La Marsa

71-740-940 / 71-744-638

Flaubert@planet.tn

Ecole Marie Curie - Primary
BP 125 – Cite EL Maharagene
71-840-471
ertmc.admin@gnet.tn

Lycee Pierre Mendes – Secondary
1082 Tunis – Mutuelleville
71-783-335
ertpms.admin@gnt.tn

The International School of Carthage.

ISC

Les Jardins de Carthage
2046 Ain Zaghuan
Tunis
71-740-700 / 71-749-800
info@iscarthage.com

ISC began its first year of operation in September 2007. Located in Carthage, the 25,000 sq.m. campus includes an indoor gym, a mini soccer field, a library, and a cafeteria. Instruction is offered in French and Arabic and follows the French system. Plans for English instruction have been postponed. Bus transportation is provided

Pre-Schools

The schools listed here are conducted in French and/or English. Children from ages 2½ to 5 years are admitted.

ACST - Instruction is in English. This school is for 4 year olds. They have a half-day program or a full-day program. Registration forms and additional information is available on their web site. <http://www.acst.net/>

The Pines - La Marsa. Instruction is in English. Monia Ben Checkh is the director and her email is moniabc@planet.tn, 216-71-745-713. School hours are Mon- Fri from 9-12. They do offer French classes in the afternoon. Tuition is approx \$1,400 a year. Children 3-4 can attend.

Generation 2000- La Marsa, Instruction is in French and Arabic. School hours are Mon-Fri from 8-4. Children age 2-4 can attend. Tuition is 855TD for 10 months with a 55TD registration fee. Contact Mrs. Marie Christine Righi at 71 748 045.

Kid's Club - La Marsa for kids between the ages of 3 months and 4 years old. It is run by an expatriate ADB spouse. For more info call 20 03 68 79 (English) or 99 66 66 40 (French). Email: kidsclubtunis@yahoo.com . Address: 25, rue Juba – Cite Nassim– La Marsa.



Sworn Translators List

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Embassy Tunis, Tunisia assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following persons or firms. Names are listed alphabetically, and the order in which they appear has no other significance. All information below is provided directly by the translators.

Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address / Email	Phone Fax	Languages
ABDALLAH	Hafaiedh	98 rue de Yougoslavie 2ème étage 1000 Tunis iso.anis@gnet.tn	71 347 803 98 333 196 Fax: 71 354 753	Arabic English French Spanish
AYADI-HAKIM	Latifa	18 bis, rue Ibn Khaldoun 1000 Tunis ayadihakimlatifa@yahoo.fr	71 354 267 71 332 308 Fax: 71 333 136	Arabic English French
BELDI	Mohsen	15 rue de Grèce 1000 Tunis mohssen@voila.fr	71 258 683 Fax: 71 349 120	Arabic English French
BEN SALHA	Ezzeddine	251 Avenue Habib Bourguiba 5099 Lamta, Monastir hannibaltraductions@yahoo.fr	73 555 059 97 368 973 Fax: 73 555 059	Arabic English French
BEN SLIMANE	Mohamed	80 rue Ali Belahouane 8000 Nabeul mbslimane@yahoo.fr	72 230 867 72 221 444 23 248 400 Fax: 72 221 444	Arabic English French German
CHOUROU	Béchir	12 Avenue & Novembre 1164 Hammam Chatt Ben Arous Bechir.chourou@planet.tn	71 431 260 98 308 438 Fax: 71 431 871	Arabic English French
ELLOUZE	Ridha	Les Olympiades, Bloc 26, Apt 364 1002 Tunis Cit_olt@tunet.tn	71 773 327 98 328 599 Fax: 71 772 065	Arabic English French
ENNOURI	Hamed	Avenue Habib Thameur Immeuble El Manar, Escalier A, 2ème Etage 3000 Sfax Cab.h.ennouri@tunet.tn	74 220 552 74 298 109 Fax: 74 225 693	Arabic English French

LASSOUED MRABET	Inès	1 rue d'Égypte Lafayette 1002 Tunis ines.lassoued@voila.fr	71 834 411 21 110 800 Fax: 71 834 411	Arabic English
MANSOURI	Mohamed	25 rue Ibiza Riadh El Andalous 2080 Ariana, Tunis mansourimail@yahoo.fr	98 586 511	Arabic English
MUSTAPHA	Ahmed	45 Avenue Tahar Sfar 4000 Sousse amidato@yahoo.uk	73 200 719 22 698 014 Fax:73 200 719	Arabic English French
SEDIRI	Anouar	8 Avenue de Carthage 1001 Tunis	71 345 005 98 328 136 Fax:71 345 005	Arabic English French German Italian Dutch Swedish Flemish

Attorney's List

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Embassy Tunis, Tunisia assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following persons or firms. Names are listed alphabetically, and the order in which they appear has no other significance. All information below is provided directly by the attorneys.

Last Name	First Name	Types of Law Practiced	Languages Spoken	Mailing Address	Preferred Phone
AHMADI	Abdallah	Civil, commercial, criminal, real estate, transfer of assets, labor, international, maritime	Excellent Arabic and French, fairly good English	115 Avenue de la Liberte, Tunis	71-283-844
ALAIMI	Tarek			5 rue de l'evacuation, Nouvelle Ariana 2080	21-713-657
AMMAR	Yadh	Foreign investment, labor legislation, commercial, real estate, arbitration	Excellent Arabic and French, fairly good English and Italian	9 Rue de Jerusalem, Tunis 1002	71-784-275
ANNABI	Samir	Foreign investment, commercial, international, arbitration	Excellent Arabic, French and English	11 Rue Azzouz Rebai, Impasse 7, El Manar II, Tunis	71-886-181
BAROUNI	Moncef	Civil, commercial, criminal, real estate, transfer of assets, labor, international, maritime	Excellent Arabic, French and English	Rue du Lac D'Annecy, Immeuble Astree, 2eme etage, Les Berges du Lac	71-862-102
BELLAGHA	Adly	Corporate, commercial, foreign accounts, real estate, international, expropriation, insurance, offshore investment	Excellent Arabic, French and English, good Italian	126 Rue de Yougoslavie, Tunis	71-327-122
BEN KHEDER	Mohamed Kamel	Commercial, criminal, drugs, labor, maritime, immigration	Excellent Arabic and French, fairly good English	3 Rue Ibn Charaf, Cite Jardins, Le Belvedere	71-784-218
BEN ROMDHANE	Amel	Public	Excellent Arabic and French, good English and Italian	12 Rue de Kairouan, Tunis 1006	50 71-781-576

BOUDERBALA	Samia	Commercial, labor, criminal, custody, drugs and international	Excellent Arabic and French, good English, light Italian	30 Avenue Abdelaziz Thaalbi, El Menza 9A, Tunis	71-882-333
BOUKHRIS	Mohamed Raouf	Commercial, foreign investment, offshore investment, real estate	Excellent Arabic, French and English	12 Rue de Kairouan, Tunis 1006	71-780-876
CAID ESSEBSI	Slaheddine	Commercial, international, maritime, real estate, transfer of assets	Excellent Arabic and French, fairly good English	14 Avenue Alain Savary, Tunis 1002	71-785-611
DHAHBI TOUNSI	Emna	Criminal		15 Avenue Jean Jaures, Tunis	71-253-613
DHRIF	Charfeddine	Civil, maritime, commercial	Excellent Arabic and French, good English	15 Rue Ghandi, Tunis 1000	71-347-776
KAANICHE	Adel	Civil, divorce, custody, adoption, criminal, drugs	Excellent Arabic, French, English	Rue Andre Lambert, Immeuble Astree Les Berges du Lac 2045	71-711-848
KEDADI	Hedia	Commercial, international, real estate, banking, commercial notary	Excellent French and English, fair Arabic and Spanish, light Russian	18 Rue Taieb Mehiri, Carthage Dermech 2016	71-271-175
KHROUF	Fatma	Civil, labor, real estate, maritime, adoption	Excellent French, good English, fair Arabic	49 Rue Chedli Gtari, El Menzah 9, Tunis 1013	71-871-909

LAKEHAL-AYAT	Naziha	Civil, labor, real estate, criminal, international	Excellent Arabic and French	28 Boulevard Bab Benat, Tunis	71-561-866
LAOUANI	Samira			5 rue de Chypre, Mutuelleville, Tunis	71-841-364
MEDDEB	Ahmed	Civil, commercial, criminal, real estate, labor, international, investment, drugs, immigration	Excellent Arabic and French, good English and German	32 Rue Charles de Gaulle, Tunis 1000	71-321-627
MEZOUAR	Ibtissem			25 rue Louis Braille, Belvedere 1002	71-843-753
OUNAIES	Abdessattar	Maritime, insurance	Excellent Arabic and French, good English	6 Rue d'Argentine, Tunis 1002	71-792-229
SAIDI	Rym			4 rue du 13 Aout, Immeuble Slim Apt N 1, Manouba 2010	
SELLAMI	Moncef	Civil, commercial, real estate, transfer of assets, maritime	Excellent Arabic and French, good English	55 Rue Habib Maazoun, Sfax 3000	74-223-971
TEFIFEHA	Touhami	Civil, custody, adoption	Excellent Arabic and French, good English	24 Avenue de 3 Aout, Sousse 4000	73-227-193
TRABELSI	Raja	International, maritime	Excellent Arabic, French and Italian, good English and Spanish	8 Avenue Habib Bourguiba, Centre Phenicia, Bloc A, 2nd floor, La Marsa 2078	71-745-735
VANDAVEER	Vonda		Excellent English, some French		21-589-747

Avian Influenza in Tunisia

As of December 8, 2007 there are NO reported cases of Avian Influenza in Tunisia.

We encourage all Americans to learn more about Avian Influenza. The U.S. Department of State's latest guidance on Avian Flu can be found at www.travel.state.gov

Current information about avian influenza A (H5N1) and pandemic influenza can be found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/gen-info/qa.htm>

<http://www.cdc.gov/travel>

<http://www.who.int>

<http://www.pandemicflu.gov>

<http://www.travel.state.gov>

Several simple measures can be taken now that will put you and your family in a better state of readiness should such a pandemic occur. These measures are outlined at <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/planguide/>.

Health professionals are concerned that the continued spread of a highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1) virus among animals in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe has the potential to significantly threaten human health. If a virus such as H5N1 mutates and spreads easily from one person to another, avian influenza may break out globally. While there are **no reports of sustained human-to-human transmission** of avian influenza, the U.S. Government and international health agencies are preparing for a possible pandemic.

Depending on the severity of a pandemic, commercial airlines might drastically curtail or even cease operations. Travel restrictions could also impede people from returning to the United States or fleeing to other countries. For these reasons, it may make more sense to "**shelter-in-place**" (i.e., stay home and practice "social distancing" to avoid contagion) for an appropriate period of time.

United States Residents: The Department of Health and Human Services suggests that **US residents** prepare **two weeks** of emergency supplies (food, water, medicines, etc.) in order to **shelter-in-place** during an influenza pandemic.

American Citizens Abroad: Due to varying conditions overseas, Americans abroad should evaluate their situation and prepare emergency supplies accordingly (non-perishable food, potable water, medicines, etc.) for the possibility of **sheltering-in-place** for **at least two and up to twelve weeks**. Water purification techniques such as boiling, filtering and/or adding chlorine to locally available rainwater, swimming pools, lakes, rivers and wells may replace the need to store large quantities of water.

What can you do on a daily basis? Cover your cough. Wash your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds to eradicate viruses and bacteria or apply a hand sanitizer with a minimum of 60% alcohol content when soap and water are not available. Stay home if you are sick. Vaccinate yourself against seasonal flu.

Travel: American citizens living in or traveling to countries with human or animal cases of H5N1 virus should consider the **potential risks**. Keep informed of the latest medical guidance and practical information and plan accordingly. Consult www.travel.state.gov for the latest tips on international travel.



Apostilles for Documents Issued in the US

An *apostille* is a certificate issued by a designated authority in a country where a treaty called the Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement for Legalization of Foreign Public Documents applies.

If you have a document which you want legalized for use in another Hague Convention country, the convention certification called *apostille* must be affixed to the document by a competent authority. The *apostille* is a pre-printed form prescribed by the convention. **The *apostille* must be affixed at the government agency in the country which issued the original document. The Embassy does not have the authority to affix an *apostille* to documents issued in the United States.**

PROCEDURE:

Since the authorities designated by the U.S. to affix the *apostille* can only attest to the validity of certain seals, it may be necessary for you to obtain some intermediate seals on your document, depending on the origin of the document, before the *apostille* can be affixed. There is no single U.S. competent authority to issue the convention *apostille*. There are different authorities for documents originating in state and local jurisdictions, Federal courts and Federal government agencies. Contact the competent local authority who will affix the certification (*apostille*) on your document. Please see appendix B (page 95 and following) for a list of the competent authorities. If it is necessary for you to obtain some intermediate seals on your document before obtaining the convention *apostille*, consult the appropriate state or federal authority listed below.

Hague “Apostille” Authentication Certificate:

Article 7 of the Convention provides for the use of a standardized authentication certificate called an *apostille*. A sample *apostille* certificate is provided in appendix C on page 103. The *apostille* consists of the following: 1) name of country from which the document emanates; 2) name of person signing the document; 3) the capacity in which the person signing the document has acted; 4) in the case of unsigned documents, the name of the authority that has affixed the seal or stamp; 5) place of certification; 6) date of certification; 7) the authority issuing the certificate; 8) number of certificate; 9) seal or stamp of authority Issuing certificate; and 10) signature of authority issuing certificate.

For more information on the *apostille* please refer to:

http://travel.state.gov/law/info/judicial/judicial_2545.html

Fees:

Fees charged by federal and state government authorities are listed below. Please note that fees vary from state to state and are subject to change.

FEDERAL COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

http://travel.state.gov/family/family_issues/divorce/divorce_591.html

If the Origin of the Document and/or Seal is a Federal Executive or Administrative Agency, Contact:

U.S. Department of State
Authentications Office
518 23rd Street, N.W. SA-1
Washington, D.C. 20520
USA

U.S. Courts

Clerks and Deputy Clerks of the Federal Court System.

For the purposes of the Convention, clerks and deputy clerks of the U.S. Courts shall include the clerks And deputy clerks of the following: The Supreme Court of the United States, the Courts of Appeals for the First through the Eleventh Circuits and the District of Columbia Circuit, the United States District Courts, The United States Court of Claims, the United States Court of Customs and Patent Appeals, the United States Court of International Trade, the United States District Court for the District of the Canal Zone, the District Court of Guam, the District Court of the Virgin Islands, and the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Office of American Services continues to perform notarial and authentication services for those wishing to execute documents in the presence of a U.S. Consular Officer. This is not an *apostille*. The fee is \$30.00, or the Tunisian dinar equivalent per initial signature/seal; each additional signature/seal provided at the same time in connection with the same transaction will cost \$20 or the Tunisian dinar equivalent. For this service, you may refer to our website at <http://tunisia.usembassy.gov>



Lost and Stolen Credit Cards or Travelers' Checks

If your credit card or travelers checks are lost or stolen you should immediately notify the local police station, and then cancel your cards. Below are the US numbers of the major US credit card companies:

- | | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------|
| • | American Express: | 212-477-5700 |
| • | Visa Card | 415-574-7111 |
| • | Master Card | 314-275-6690 |
| • | Diners Club | 303-792-0629 |



Filing an Immigration Petition for your Relative

Recent legislation has led to changes in the procedures American citizens resident abroad will follow if they wish to sponsor an immediate relative (spouse, parent or minor child) for an immigrant visa. Effective immediately, the immediate relative petition (I-130) must be filed with the USCIS office responsible for the petitioner's place of residence (that is, the place of residence of the American citizen who is filing the petition). Consular offices at U.S. embassies and consulates are no longer authorized to accept I-130s from anyone who has not been resident in Tunisia for at least six months, although they will continue to provide guidance to American citizen petitioners and their family members.

Responsibility for acceptance and approval of immigrant visa petitions rests solely with USCIS. American citizens should submit their I-130 at the CIS office responsible for their place of residence. This procedural change may result in a processing delay for some applicants. The Department of State recognizes and sincerely regrets the inconvenience this may cause.

The site www.uscis.gov provides a list of USCIS offices where petitions may be filed. (Or, from inside the United States you may call the USCIS Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283.)

If you have been resident in Tunisia for at least six months:

If a petition is submitted to the Embassy, a consular officer will have the authority to approve it. If the consular officer decides that the case is not clearly approvable, the Embassy must forward the petition to USCIS Rome for further processing. This USCIS process may take six months or longer. Any decision to forward a petition to Rome is final.

To file a petition for your spouse, child, or parents you must be prepared to document your relationship to the beneficiary, your U.S. citizenship and your residency in Tunisia or Libya. Though the consular section has attempted to include all basic requirements in these instructions, cases may require additional documentation. If you have any questions about documentary requirements, please contact the consular section directly.

If you are an American citizen filing a petition for your family member, you will need:

- A completed Form I-130 Petition for Alien Relative.
- A completed Form G-325 Biographic Information for you.
- A completed Form G-325 Biographic Information for your relative.
- Proof of your U.S. citizenship (a passport valid for at least five years at time of issuance, a naturalization certificate, or birth certificate).
- Your relative's proof of citizenship and identity.
- Your family member's birth certificate.
- One (50mm x 50mm) photograph of you and one of your relative.
- The petition-filing fee of \$190, payable in cash. (USD or TND equivalent.)

If you are filing a petition for a spouse...

- The Embassy cannot accept any petition in which one or both spouses are under the age of eighteen
- You may need your marriage decree issued by the Tunisian or Libyan government (religious documents are insufficient evidence of relationship).
- You may need proof of termination of any prior marriages.

If you are filing a petition for a parent...

- If you have been legally adopted, you may not petition for your birth parent.
- If your name or your parent's name is different from the names on your birth certificate you must provide evidence of the legal name change
- You may need a copy of your parents' civil marriage certificate and a copy of any divorce decrees, death certificates, or annulment decrees that would show that any previous marriage entered into by your mother or father was ended legally.

If you are filing a petition for a child....

- You may need an original marriage contract between you and the child's other parent.
- If the child is included in a parent's passport, the child's photograph must be attached and the child's name must appear in the passport in Roman letters.

Your family member must come with you to fill out additional forms at the time you file the petition.

All documents must be originals or certified copies.

All documents must be officially translated into English.



Adopting in Tunisia

Disclaimer: The following is intended as a very general guide to assist U.S. citizens who plan to adopt a child from a foreign country and apply for an immigrant visa for the child to come to the United States. Two sets of laws are particularly relevant: 1) the laws of the child's country of birth govern all activity in that country including the adoptability of individual children as well as the adoption of children in country in general; and 2) U.S. Federal immigration law governs the immigration of the child to the United States.

The information in this flyer relating to the legal requirements of specific foreign countries is based on public sources and our current understanding. It does not necessarily reflect the actual state of the laws of a child's country of birth and is provided for general information only. Moreover, U.S. immigration law, including regulations and interpretation, changes from time to time. This flyer reflects our current understanding of the law as of this date and is not legally authoritative. Questions involving foreign and U.S. immigration laws and legal interpretation should be addressed respectively to qualified foreign or U.S. legal counsel.

PLEASE NOTE: The U.S. Embassy in Tunis has been informed that Law No. 58-27, Articles 8 to 16 covers Tunisian adoptions. The law contains no nationality or religious requirements but Tunisian judges have generally held that prospective adoptive parents must be Muslim and of Tunisian descent. Usually, they will only grant adoptions to Muslims living in Tunisia or an Islamic Arab country that have some family ties to Tunisia.

A foreign country's determination that the child is an orphan does not guarantee that the child will be considered an orphan under the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act. For more specific information on adoption in Tunisia, please contact an attorney familiar with Tunisian laws or the Embassy of Tunisia in Washington, D.C. <http://tunisiaembassy.org/>.

ADOPTION AUTHORITY IN TUNISIA:

Institut National de la Protection de l'Enfance
2010 Manoubia
Tunis, Tunisie
Tel : (216) 71-606-938/ 71-606-890

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ADOPTIVE PARENTS:

- The adopting parent must be at least 20 years of age, married and not legally barred from adoption.
- Divorced or widowed individuals may not adopt without the express consent of a judge.
- Single individuals or common-law partners may not adopt.
- Adopting parents must be at least 15 years older than the child.
- Adopting parents must be able to prove they have sufficient revenue to support the child.
- As noted above, it is extremely rare for foreigners to be allowed to adopt in Tunisia. Tunisian judges have generally held that prospective adoptive parents must be Muslim and of Tunisian descent. Usually, they will only grant adoptions to Muslims living in Tunisia or an Islamic Arab country that have some family ties to Tunisia.

TIME FRAME:

- One month for review of submitted documentation by the Institut National de la Protection de l'Enfance
- "Undetermined" amount of time for review of file by psychologists and other authorities (estimated time: 1-2 months)
- 3 months of visits by the Institut National to the home of the potential parents to make sure the home is ready for the child
- 3 months of visits by the Institut National to the home of the potential parents after the child has been placed there

ADOPTION AGENCIES AND ATTORNEYS: Prospective adoptive parents are advised to fully research any adoption agency or facilitator they plan to use for adoption services. For U.S.-based agencies, it is suggested that prospective adoptive parents contact the Better Business Bureau and/or the licensing office of the appropriate state government agency in the U.S. state where the agency is located or licensed.

Please see [*Important Notice Regarding Adoption Agents and Facilitators*](#) at the Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs web site travel.state.gov.

ADOPTION FEES IN COUNTRY: There are no fees for processing an adoption case.

ADOPTION PROCEDURES: A completed adoption file containing the documents listed below in the following section may be mailed or hand-delivered to the Institut National de la Protection de l'Enfance at:

Institut National de la Protection de l'Enfance
2010 Manoubia
Tunis, Tunisie

Afterwards potential adopting parents should expect to wait to hear back from the agency as the Institut carries out the following steps :

- One month for review of submitted documentation by the Institut National de la Protection de l'Enfance
- "Undetermined" amount of time for review of file by psychologists and other authorities (estimated time: 1-2 months)
- 3 months of visits by the Institut National to the home of the potential parents to make sure the home is in order
- 3 months of visits by the Institut National to the home of the potential parents after the child has been placed there

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR ADOPTION IN COUNTRY:

- Petition to adopt a child signed by the adopting parent and their spouse
- Marriage certificate (or death or divorce certificate where applicable)
- 4 prepaid envelopes
- Birth certificates of both adopting parents
- A copy of Tunisian social security card
- 2 photographs of each adoption parent
- Police certificates of both adopting parents
- Medical certificates of both adopting parents
- Proof of revenue

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN EMBASSY AND CONSULATE IN THE U.S.:

Embassy of Tunisia
1515 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20005
Phone: (202) 862-1850
Fax: (202) 862 1858

U.S. IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS: Prospective adoptive parents are strongly encouraged to consult USCIS publication [M-249, THE IMMIGRATION OF ADOPTED AND PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE CHILDREN](#), as well as the Department of State publication, *International Adoptions*. The USCIS publication is available at the USCIS web site. The Department of State publication [International Adoptions](#) can be found on the Bureau of Consular Affairs web site, travel.state.gov, under "Intercountry Adoption."

Before completing an adoption abroad, prospective adoptive parents are strongly encouraged to read the requirements for filing Form I-600, *Petition to Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative*. Please see the flyer "[How Can Adopted Children Come to the United States](#)" at the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs web site (<http://www.travel.state.gov/family/>)

U.S. EMBASSY IN TUNISIA: Americans living or traveling abroad are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the State Department's travel registration website, <https://travelregistration.state.gov/>, and to obtain updated information on travel and security within the country of travel. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency. The Consular Section is located at:

U.S. Embassy Tunis
1053 Les Berges du Lac
Tunis, Tunisia
Phone: +216 71-107-000
Fax: +216 71-964-360
Email: ConsularTunis@state.gov

APPLYING FOR A VISA AT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN TUNISIA: Routine services for U.S. citizens are available Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cases involving preparation (such as adoption) should be scheduled in advance by e-mailing consulartunis@state.gov or telephoning (216) 71 107-000.

NOTE: Embassy Tunis generally takes 24 hours to issue a visa.

ACQUIRING U.S. CITIZENSHIP: The language describing the acquisition of U.S. citizenship for adopted children is currently under review. Until the new language is finalized, please click on the following link for further information: http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/info/info_457.html.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Specific questions about adoption in Tunisia may be addressed to the U.S. Embassy in Tunis. General questions regarding intercountry adoption may be addressed to the Office of Children's Issues, U.S. Department of State, CA/OCS/CI, SA-29, 4th Floor, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20520-4818, **toll-free Tel: 1-888-407-4747**.

Useful information is also available from several other sources:

Telephone:

Toll Free - For information on intercountry adoption and international parental child abduction, call Overseas Citizens Services at 1-888-407-4747. This number is available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Callers who are unable to use toll-free numbers, such as those calling from overseas, may obtain information and assistance during these hours by calling 1-202-501-4444.

U.S. Department of State Visa Office - recorded information concerning immigrant visas for adopting children, (202) 663-1225.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services - recorded information for requesting immigrant visa application forms, 1-800-870-FORM (3676).

Internet :

Adoption Information Flyers: The U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs web site at: <http://travel.state.gov/> contains intercountry adoption information flyers like this one and the *International Adoptions* brochure.

Consular Information Sheets: The State Department has general information about hiring a foreign attorney and authenticating documents that may supplement the country-specific information provided in this flyer. In addition, the State Department publishes Consular Information Sheets (CIS's) for every country in the world, providing information such as location of the U.S. Embassy, health conditions, political situations, and crime reports. If the situation in a country poses a specific threat to the safety and security of American citizens that is not addressed in the CIS for that country, the State Department may issue a Public Announcement alerting U.S. citizens to local security situations. If conditions in a country are sufficiently serious, the State Department may issue a Travel Warning recommending that U.S. citizens avoid traveling to that country. These documents are available on the Internet at: <http://travel.state.gov/> or by calling the State Department's Office of Overseas Citizen Services Toll Free at 1-888-407-4747. This number is available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Callers who are unable to use toll-free numbers, such as those calling from overseas, may obtain information and assistance during these hours by calling 1-202-501-4444.

USCIS web site - <http://uscis.gov/>.



Happy Hours and Recreation Center at the Embassy

USGERA is the US Government Employees Recreation Association and manages (among other things) the Recreation Center at the US Embassy.

You may join USGERA as a Guest Member by contacting the USGERA Manager at (216) 71-107-086. This membership includes access to the Recreation Center at posted times, access to the swimming pool and playground at posted times, and an open invitation to come to our weekly Mid-Week Tweaks and every-other-Friday Happy Hours at the snack bar.

Fees

Single

- Annual \$600.00/year
- Abbreviated \$50.00/month
- Seasonal (June, July, August) \$225.00/season

Family

- Annual \$900.00/year
- Abbreviated \$75.00/month
- Seasonal (June, July, August) \$600.00/season



Helpful French Words

Greetings

Good morning or hello	bonjour
Good evening	bonsoir
Have a good day	bonne journee
Goodbye	au revoir

Days of the Week

Monday	Lundi
Tuesday	Mardi
Wednesday	Mercredi
Thursday	Jeudi
Friday	Vendredi
Saturday	Samedi
Sunday	Dimanche

Numbers

One	Un
Two	Deux
Three	Trois
Four	Quatre
Five	Cinq
Six	Six
Seven	Sept
Eight	Huit
Nine	Neuf
Ten	Dix
Hundred	Cent
Thousand	Mille

Miscellaneous

Thank You	merci
Please	s'il vous plait
Excuse me	excusez-moi
You're welcome	de rien
What time?	À quelle heure?
Rest room	toilettes
Left	à gauche
Right	à droite
Straight ahead	tout droit
How Much?	combien
Nice to meet you	enchanté
Check please	l'addition s'il vous plait

Shopping in Tunis

The following information though far from exhaustive, provides some basic information to get you started.

Carrefour – Located at the corner of the La Marsa highway and the La Soukra road, Carrefour closely resembles a small, Western-style shopping mall. The mall includes a large combination household items/grocery store, clothing boutiques for men, women and children, shoe stores, a hairdresser, a dry cleaner, a Kodak film processing store, and a food court. The Carrefour grocery store includes canned goods, dry goods, baked and frozen goods, produce, deli meats, beer, wine, etc. (Shoppers should note that most products are Tunisian, Italian or French.) The household section includes appliances, sporting goods, toys, books, clothes, gardening supplies, furniture, bedding, hardware, etc.

Géant – Located Bizerte Highway 3.5K from Tunis. Giant superstore and mall with food court is quite similar to Carrefour.

Monoprix - The Monoprix is a privately owned chain of stores in a variety of locations. Its inventory includes similar items (although on a much smaller scale) to those found in an American grocery store.

Lac Palace - On the La Marsa highway, this retail/commercial/residential center offers numerous upscale shops and boutiques (Jacadi, Estee Lauder, and Villeroy & Boch, among others) and small eateries.

Zephyr – This shopping plaza, is located in La Marsa Ville, includes a Monoprix and a Monoprix home, various clothing and shoe boutiques, Tunisiana phone store and a Tea Salon overlooking the Mediterranean.

Central market - Located near the Medina, off Avenue Habib Bourguiba, offers any and every item available in Tunis. There are numerous butchers, fish markets, poultry shops, produce vendors and specialty shops. You can find everything from dry goods, canned goods and spices to handicrafts and freshly made pasta.

La Marsa Market – Open daily until noon. A smaller version of the central market can be found in the center of la Marsa, near the Corniche. Several fishermen and butchers are available. Also included are a half a dozen produce vendors, a patisserie, a cheese store, poultry and egg shops, a dry goods store, a spice shop, and a flower vendor. Along the outer walkway you can find a dry cleaner, toy store, magazine stand and jeweler.

Promogro - Promogro is located on the La Marsa highway. The store has two sections. One sells bulk supplies, such as cases of milk, water, and sodas, rice and pasta by the sack, and canned goods in gallon sizes. They also sell kitchenware, bath items, toiletries, cleaning supplies, and paper products in this section. The other section has fresh produce, meats, and dairy products. There is a small toy store on the upper level.

In addition to the shops and stores listed on the previous page, Tunis and the surrounding areas are inundated with a myriad of small bakeries, food shops and vegetable stands. The best way to shop these local markets is to explore your neighborhood and find the ones you like the best. Here are some of the more popular neighborhood shops.

Chamalo - Located off the la Marsa highway next to the La Marsa train station. Chamalo offers a large selection of Belgian-style chocolates and other candies. 6 Rue Voltaire 2070 La Marsa. 71 743 654

ChoPain – Located in La Marsa , ChoPain offers delicious croissants, breads and pastries. 14 C Ave. de l'Indépendance - 71-981-880

Le Délice – Located on the La Marsa highway, across from the British Ambassador's Residence, Le Délice offers pastries, savorys and breads. 71.728-737

Le Gourmet - A patisserie located in La Marsa across from the La Marsa high school. Le Gourmet offers croissants, pastries, and cakes.

Patisserie Ben Yedder - Several Ben Yedder shops can be found in Tunis. They offer a variety of croissants, pastries, and cakes as well as a coffee shop.

Le Petit Coin de France – Located on La Marsa highway (near Promogro) this delicatessen offers a variety of French meats, cheese and homemade pasta. They also offer a “plate of the day” for takeout. Mon – Fri 8-2 / 4-8, Sat 8:30 – 8pm, Sun 8:30 – 1pm. CLOSED on Wednesday

Les Pyramides – Rue El Saoud, Manar II. Offers croissants and a variety of pastries, cakes, candy and ice cream. 71.873.999



Miscellaneous Services in Tunis

Dry Cleaners

Carrefour	Davin, 21 rue Gamel Abdelnasser	71 241.489
L'Unic	72 Avenue de la Liberte 71 280.770	
Lave Matic	15 Avenue Ali Behahouane, La Marsa	71 741 470
King Pressing	Rue Lac Victoria, Berges du Lac	71-862-842

Film Developing

Kodak store, Carrefour, 1 hour service		
Kodak Labocolor	112 rue de Palestine, same day service	71 782.422
Studio Salim	Avenue Abderrahman Mami La Marsa	71-741-257 / 71-741-385
Konica Photo Express	Lac Palace, same day service	71 788.880

Framing

L'Art de l'Encadrement	Route de la Soukra Km 14, Sidi Fradj	98-318-033
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Hair Salons

Donna's	116 Ave. De l'Union du Maghreb. La Soukra	71-765-258 / 71-233-049
Pretty Lady	125 Rue de l'Ere Nouvelle, Cite Ennaser	71-828-608
Hair Glamour	Rue lac Oubeira, Berge du Lac	71-862-869 / 21-189-957
Jacque Dessange	1053 Berges du Lac	71-860-600 / 71-860-910
Coiffure et Beauté	Rue du Sapin, La Marsa	71-742-190 / 71-745-397
Chantal	(near Café Journal)	71-982-237
Kice	La Marsa (near 3 gas stations)	98-275-492
Beauty Institute	next to Monoprix, Carthage	71-721-343
Nourredine El Kefi	Rue Marseille, Tunis	71-350-663

Veterinary Services

Clinique Vét du Lac,	Rue du Lac Malerne, 1053 Les Berges du Lac	71-860-464 / 21-121-974
Clinique Vet. La Marsa	22 Bis de la Victoire, La Marsa	71-740-664 / 98-219-172
Dr. Ben Milouika Zakaria	2046 Sidi Daoud, Carthage	71 779.125 / 71-982-222
Dr. Meriem Mansour Ben Arfa (house calls)		21-121-974
Dr. Akram Ben Salah		98-332-325

Travel Agents

Atlantis Voyages – Walid Boulifa, Av. Du Japon, Mont Plaisir 1002, Tunis	98-652-511
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Civil Documents in Tunisia

Birth certificates (extrait de naissance), marriage certificates (acte de mariage), divorce certificates (acte de divorce) or death certificates (acte de deces) may be obtained from the Ministry of the Interior, Office of Foreigners:

Ministere de l'Interieure et du Developpement Locale
Bureau des Etrangeres
Avenue Habib Bourguiba
Tunis 1000

Phone: (216) 71-330-000

E-mail: mint@ministeres.tn

If you know the municipality in which the event took place in Tunisia you may directly contact that City Hall (mairie) and request the original document.

Police records (extrait de casier judiciaire or Bulletin Numero 3) can be obtained by bringing a letter stating that you like your police record to your nearest police station (or National Guard station if you are or were located in a rural area). You will need to present an ID and a copy of this ID. For those under the age of 18, a birth certificate will also need to be provided. There is a fee of two Tunisian Dinar which must be paid at the local tax collector's office (recette de finance) where you will receive a stamp that you should take with you to the police station. They will then give you an application form which you can fill out and return immediately. It can take up to fifteen days to receive your record.



Cars

DISCLAIMER: The information below relating to Tunisian legal requirements is provided for general information only and may not be totally accurate in a particular case. Questions involving interpretations of specific provisions or application to a specific case should be addressed to Tunisian government officials.

An unlimited third party liability insurance policy is compulsory for all automobiles driven in Tunisia. As proof of insurance you will be given a receipt that you should keep in your car.

In general cars imported for less than three months can keep their foreign plates; those brought in for more than three months need Tunisian plates. Americans who plan to reside in Tunisia should consult the Customs Office at the port of entry about paying import taxes on their vehicle. The contact information for the main Customs Office is:

Direction Generale des Douanes
Rue de Palestine
Tunis 1001
Phone: (216) 71-799-700
E-mail: brc@douane.gov.tn
Website: <http://www.douane.gov.tn/>

In order to obtain a Tunisian license plate and have your imported car pass inspection you will need approval from the "Service des Mines" of the Prefecture. Their telephone number is (216) 71-934-925.

The sale of a car imported duty-free must be processed at the Tunisian Customs Office. Both the buyer and the seller must execute a title transfer request (*demande de transfert*.) The seller must also complete a bill of sale (*certificat de vente*). Foreigners must present their passports, as well as all ownership documents. Customs duties and taxes must be paid by the seller to the Tunisian Customs Office on any car sold to a resident of Tunisia. The seller must give the customs certificate (*certificat de dédouanement*) to the buyer as proof that customs duties have been paid on the vehicle. Any American planning to sell a duty-free vehicle should inform the local Customs Office of their intentions and confirm that the circumstances of the sale pose no customs problems.



Returning to the US

U.S. Immigration and Customs

Articles acquired abroad and brought back with you are subject to duty and applicable taxes.

Restrictions on Products Entering the U.S.

Fresh fruit, meat, vegetables, plants in soil, and many other agricultural products are prohibited from entering the United States because they may carry foreign insects and diseases that could damage U.S. crops, forests, gardens, and livestock. Prohibited items confiscated and destroyed at U.S. international postal facilities have almost doubled in recent years.

Importing a Car

If your vehicle does not conform to U.S. emission standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), it may be banned from entering the country.

Wildlife and Wildlife Products

U.S. laws and international treaties make it a crime to bring wildlife souvenirs into the United States.

Helpful websites:

US Customs and Border Protection: <http://www.cbp.gov>

Environmental Protection Agency: <http://www.epa.gov>

ExpatExchange: <http://www.expatsexchange.com/returning.cfm>





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<http://tunisia.usembassy.gov>